



RIDE OUT THE OLD YEAR

With their nannies and security guards, cousins and friends, the granddaughters of President Arroyo do what the kinder set loves to do when in Baguio City for the holidays, go horseback riding. Astride native horses on the grounds of The Mansion, the president's official residence in the summer capital, are Eva Victoria Manotok Arroyo (1st horse up front, in pink), Monique Montenegro Arroyo (2nd horse, in blue) and Mikaela Gloria Montenegro Arroyo. Ms. Arroyo and her family are greeting the New Year in the City of Pines.

BY NELLSON

Erap eyes new Palace run

'If there's no common opposition candidate'

By Norman Bordadora

THE POLITICAL OPPOSITION is swelling with "presidentiables."

Now, even deposed President Joseph Estrada may yet run again for president should the opposition fail to come up with a common standard-bearer against whoever the Arroyo administration will field in 2010.

"It depends. If the opposition fails to come to an agreement (on a common candidate)," Estrada said.

Former Sen. Ernesto Maceda, a close Estrada ally and a leader of the United Opposition (UNO), said the first option for UNO is to unite the "five or six" presidential aspirants.

They include Senate President Manuel Villar, Senators Panfilo Lacson, Loren Legarda and Francis Escudero, and Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay.

Sen. Manuel Roxas of the Liberal Party has also declared his intention to run for president. The LP while not in the UNO coalition, is an ally of the opposition.

ERAP/A4

Sisa, Crispin, Basilio lived here, say Bulacan townsfolk

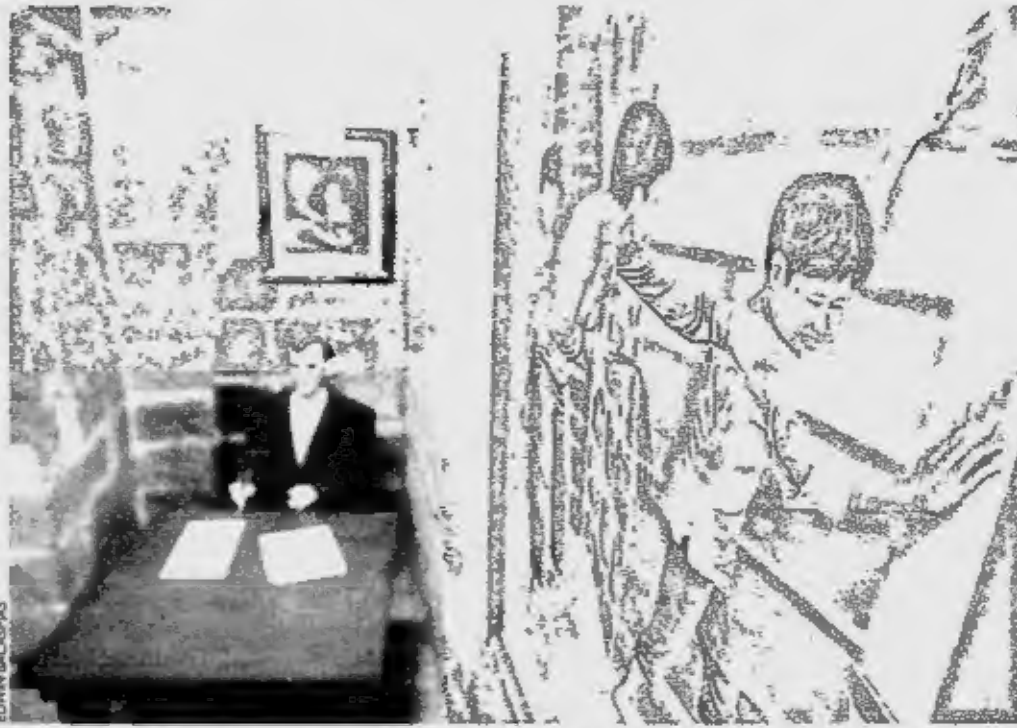
By Fe Zamora

SAN RAFAEL, BULACAN—FOR many of this town's residents, Jose Rizal's unforgettable fictional characters Sisa, Crispin and Basilio not only existed in his 19th century novel "Noli Me Tangere," they actually roamed the streets here.

According to local lore, the bloodstains on a wall in the convent of the San Juan de Dios church were actually Crispin's, Sisa's youngest son whose disappearance and probable death caused her to lose her mind.

The story, told and retold by the older townsfolk, goes like this: The head sacristan had Crispin whipped over some missing cash. The boy's bloodied body was thrown into a well at the convent, never to be seen by his mother.

This supposedly true-to-life account would be immortalized



SESA/A8

THEY'RE REAL Crispin and Basilio of Rizal's (minnequin) Noli Me Tangere fame, even Crispin's bloodstains on the wall are "red and clear," according to the heritage-conscious folk of San Rafael, Bulacan.

Battle-tested Marines guard Rizal Shrine 14 hours a day

By Tarra Quismundo

BATTLE-TESTED IN BASILAN and Jolo, a certain brotherhood within the Armed Forces of the Philippines carries out a special kind of mission at the country's Kilometer Zero, where the "enemy" includes the scorching midday sun, heavy downpours, the call of nature, and all sorts of distractions from hecklers and curious promenaders.

Honor guards from the Philippine Marines log in 14-hour days watching over the 94-year-old monument and burial site of national hero Dr.

BATTLE-TESTED/A8

Pakistan gov't says Bhutto killed by bump in head

ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN—FOLLOWING the burial of opposition leader Benazir Bhutto on Friday, the Pakistan government announced a new version of her assassination, accusing an Islamic extremist linked to the al-Qaida international terror group of killing Bhutto.

It also made a surprising announcement that Bhutto was killed not by gunshots or shrapnel but from smashing her head on her car's sunroof while trying

to duck. (See related story in The World, Page A25.)

Bhutto was killed Thursday evening when a suicide attacker shot at her and then blew himself up as she left a rally in the garrison city of Rawalpindi near Islamabad. Authorities initially said she died from bullet wounds, and a surgeon who treated her said the impact from shrapnel on her skull killed her.

But Cheema said Bhutto was

PAKISTAN/A6

Oxford friends remember 'fiery, fun' glamorous personality

By Katherine Haddon

LONDON—BENZAZIR BHUTTO's British university friends remembered her Friday as a "fiery and fun" figure who cut a glamorous swath through the dreaming spires of Oxford during the 1970s.

Bhutto was a well-known figure around the historic university after she became the first Asian woman to be elected president of the Oxford Union debating society, attracting worldwide media attention.

She reportedly held some of

OXFORD/A6



Ex-ABS-CBN news team holds reunion, talks about the good ole' days

By Arlyn dela Cruz

THOSE WERE THE DAYS. Former executives, managers, anchors, reporters, writers, editors, crew and production staff of the old newsroom of the Lopez-owned ABS-CBN gathered Thursday for a night of fun and reminiscing at the Forest

EX-ABS-CBN/A4

Missing activist couple released by military in Leyte

By Joey A. Gabieta
Inquirer Visayas
and Jerome Aning
in Manila

AFTER SEVEN MONTHS IN captivity, couple Manuel Pajaro and Juliet Fernandez, alleged

members of the New People's Army (NPA), were released by the military on Wednesday.

Lt. Col. Jonathan Ponce, commanding officer of the 62nd Infantry Battalion, presented Pajaro and Fernandez to members of the media on Dec. 26 to

believe reports that government troops had killed them after their arrest on May 11 at a checkpoint in Pinabacdao, Samar.

Dec. 26 was the 38th founding anniversary of the NPA, the armed wing of the Communist

Party of the Philippines (CPP).

Ponce noted that the couple had decided to start life anew. "They deserve a second chance and live normally as they can. I can also assure their personal security," Ponce said. (See related story on Page A6.)

On the day they were presented to the media in a safe house outside the Tacloban City center, the two admitted that they were active NPA members.

"The report that we were bru-

MISSING/A6

JUNIOR INQUIRER

Win tickets to must-see show of the year. Just answer this question: Where will the Disney on Ice Mickey & Minnie's Amazing Journey be held from Jan. 18 to 27, 2008?

SUNDAY MAGAZINE

Delicious Dozen 12 restos reflect the consistent creativity, passion and dedication of their chefs who can compete with the top of the world

ENTERTAINMENT /G1

PDI Man in Hollywood reveals 'Foster Child' almost won international film festival top prize

LIFESTYLE /C1

12 people show their lists of blessings; readers invited to e-mail theirs to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern and Eastern Luzon will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers. Southern Mindanao including Palawan will have mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms.

Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Iloilo	Partly Cloudy
Bagui	Partly Cloudy	Rosario	Partly Cloudy
Taguig	Mostly Cloudy	Calicut	Partly Cloudy
Laos	Mostly Cloudy	Tacolban	Partly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	San. Santos	Mostly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Mostly Cloudy
Legaspi	Mostly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Palawan	Partly Cloudy	Butuan	Mostly Cloudy

COMPILED BY: SONATO GUARDIA, FOR RESEARCH/12/29/07 SOURCE: PAGASA

Text us your feedback: inquirer.news.name@age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Second FRONT PAGE

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Website: www.inquirer.net/nadon



EZ2

SIX DIGIT

8 5 0 6 1 0 1 8

(In exact order)

Mid-Day SUERTRES Evening

5 0 6 0 9 6

6/42 LUZON/VIS-MIN

8 19 27 31 34 39

P4,963,894.20

Bomb experts deployed to Bocaue

NBI personnel to inspect firecracker factories and advise manufacturers

WHAT'S INSIDE

CHA-CHA EYED
to revive peace
talks with MILF

/A15

US AGENCY
brings cyber ed
to RP schools

/A15

SCOUT RANGERS
in 2006 attempted
coup discharged

/A5

MAKATI GETS
ready for New
Year countdown

/A9

By Tina G. Santos and Nancy Carvajal

THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION has deployed bomb experts to Bocaue, Bulacan—the country's firecracker capital—to conduct inspections and give pointers to manufacturers and retailers on the proper handling and storage of legal firecrackers and other pyrotechnics.

"We have to orient manufacturers and retailers to avoid firecracker-related fires and accidents that usually claim the lives of people and cause damage to property," said lawyer Romulo Asis, chief of the NBI Anti-Terrorism Division. Asis said NBI agents were also sent to other places in Bulacan where firecrackers are made and sold.

Openly sold in streets

As this developed, Valenzuela police on Friday seized thousands of pesos worth of illegal firecrackers and pyrotechnics being openly sold in the city's streets.

Supt. Reynaldo Orante, Northern Police District intelligence chief, arrested Rogaciano Santos 52, of Arkong Baro in Valenzuela for possession of at least 5,000 assorted illegal firecrackers.

Orante said the firecrackers were being openly sold in front of Santos' house.

"Although firecrackers are part of the New Year's celebration, they had to be

confiscated because aside from their volume, they posed a danger to the people in the area," Orante said.

Santos, he said, yielded boxes of imported firecrackers, super lolo and giant triangulo.

Santos will be charged with violating Republic Act No. 7183 in the city's prosecutor's office, Orante said.

RA 7183 regulates the sale, manufacture, distribution and use of firecrackers and other pyrotechnic devices. These are usually the giant explosives as opposed to the smaller and less powerful ones that are allowed.

The penalty includes a fine of between P20,000 and P30,000 or imprisonment of between six months and one year, or both at the discretion of the judge.

For additional punishment, the judge could order the cancellation of the license and business permit of the offender.

Testing a bomb shell

On Dec. 31, 2004, seven people were killed when a fire hit a strip of firecracker stalls in Bocaue. The blaze started when a customer asked that a "bomb shell" he wanted to buy be tested. Sparks flew from the item which turned out to be defective, starting a fire that ate up 14 stalls.

On Dec. 18, 1997, two workers

were killed and four others suffered burns in a fire that hit an illegal firecracker factory in San Ildefonso, Bulacan.

These were among the long list of tragedies involving firecrackers in Bulacan during the Christmas and New Year holiday season.

Optimism

Asis of the NBI expressed optimism the bureau's initiative would help prevent fires and accidents.

At the same time, he gave some pointers on the proper handling and storage of firecrackers and pyrotechnics.

"Those who plan to store such items should place them in plastic rather than metal containers. As much as possible, the firecrackers should be stored at room temperature," he said.

Metal, according to an Explosives Ordinance Disposal expert, is prone to friction that could cause the firecrackers or pyrotechnics to explode.

Firecracker-related incidents are mainly caused by the mishandling of pyrotechnic materials, he said.

For a total ban

But rather than issue the usual warnings and appeals each year, the government should just totally ban firecrackers, a senator has proposed.

Senate Minority Aquilino Pimentel

Jr. said he preferred that firecrackers be "absolutely banned" since the authorities cannot stop their proliferation.

"The manufacture, sale and use of firecrackers should be absolutely banned for endangering the lives and limbs of users and bystanders. It's most foolish to simply prepare hospitals for victims of firecracker accidents," Pimentel said.

The Department of Health has launched its annual campaign to warn the public against the use of firecrackers during the New Year revelry.

Horns, harmless noise makers

Each year, the DOH appeals to the public to use horns and other harmless noise makers instead of firecrackers to welcome the new year.

Pimentel said firecrackers were "very dangerous" because they were made of the same materials as explosives.

Aside from the inherent danger posed by the explosive materials, Pimentel said the proliferation of substandard and defective firecrackers added to the number of New Year's injuries and deaths.

Pimentel also suggested the government restrict fireworks displays to specific areas under severely controlled conditions as is done in some countries.

With Dona Pazabugan

Your decision to quit is the best gift
you can give your family



Smoking is nicotine dependence.
It is a medical condition.

Now, there is a new medication to help you quit smoking.

Go see your doctor
or call

1-800-4-A-QUIT-NOW

Alagang Pfizer Alagang Pfizer Pfizer

Bishops seek review of pardon system for convicts

By Beverly T. Natividad

THE CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE of the Philippines wants a thorough review of the system for granting pardons to prisoners.

Taking issue with the Arroyo administration's recent grant of clemency to a series of prominent convicts and the recent confusing release of former Rep. Romeo

Jalosjos, the Episcopal Commission on Prison Pastoral Care of the CBCP is calling for a way to "level the playing field" when it comes to granting pardons.

ECPPC executive director Rudy Diamante said in an interview the system should include consultations with the community and the prisoner, and not just rely on the decision of the President.

Diamante said it should also take in-

to consideration not just the age of the prisoner but the effect of "restorative justice" on him or her.

Restorative justice, in the social doctrine of the Church, refers to justice capable of restoring harmony in social relations, which was disrupted by the criminal act committed by the prisoner.

"We hope they won't just rely on the age of the person, if he's 70 or not. His

character should also be considered on whether he can go back to the community or not," Diamante said.

He said the system for granting pardons should also be reviewed to keep it free of political considerations.

"I believe it (the grant of a pardon) will always be political. There has to be a thorough review of our pardon system," Diamante said.

"It is political now because, for example, why of all prisoners, Jalosjos received a commutation [of sentence]? It is the common prisoners who are suffering despite being equally eligible for a pardon," he said.

Diamante said the President had not properly explained why she commuted Jalosjos' sentence to 16 years from a double life term.

GMA: Gov't doing its best to keep prices in check

By Michael Lim Ubac

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO YESTERDAY said the government was working doubly hard to mitigate the impact of a possible rise in the prices of basic commodities as a result of the high international price of crude oil.

The President made the assurance in response to reports that world oil was being traded up to \$97 per barrel in Asia—the highest level in a month—following the assassination of Pakistan's popular opposition leader Benazir Bhutto.

"We will work hard to protect the people from the high prices of basic commodities," the President said in a speech during the fiesta of Santiago town in Ilocos Sur where she distributed Christmas packages to indigent children.

The President told the town's residents the economy was stable as a result of the fiscal reform measures being implemented, the peso remained strong, the stock market was bullish and investments continued to pour in.

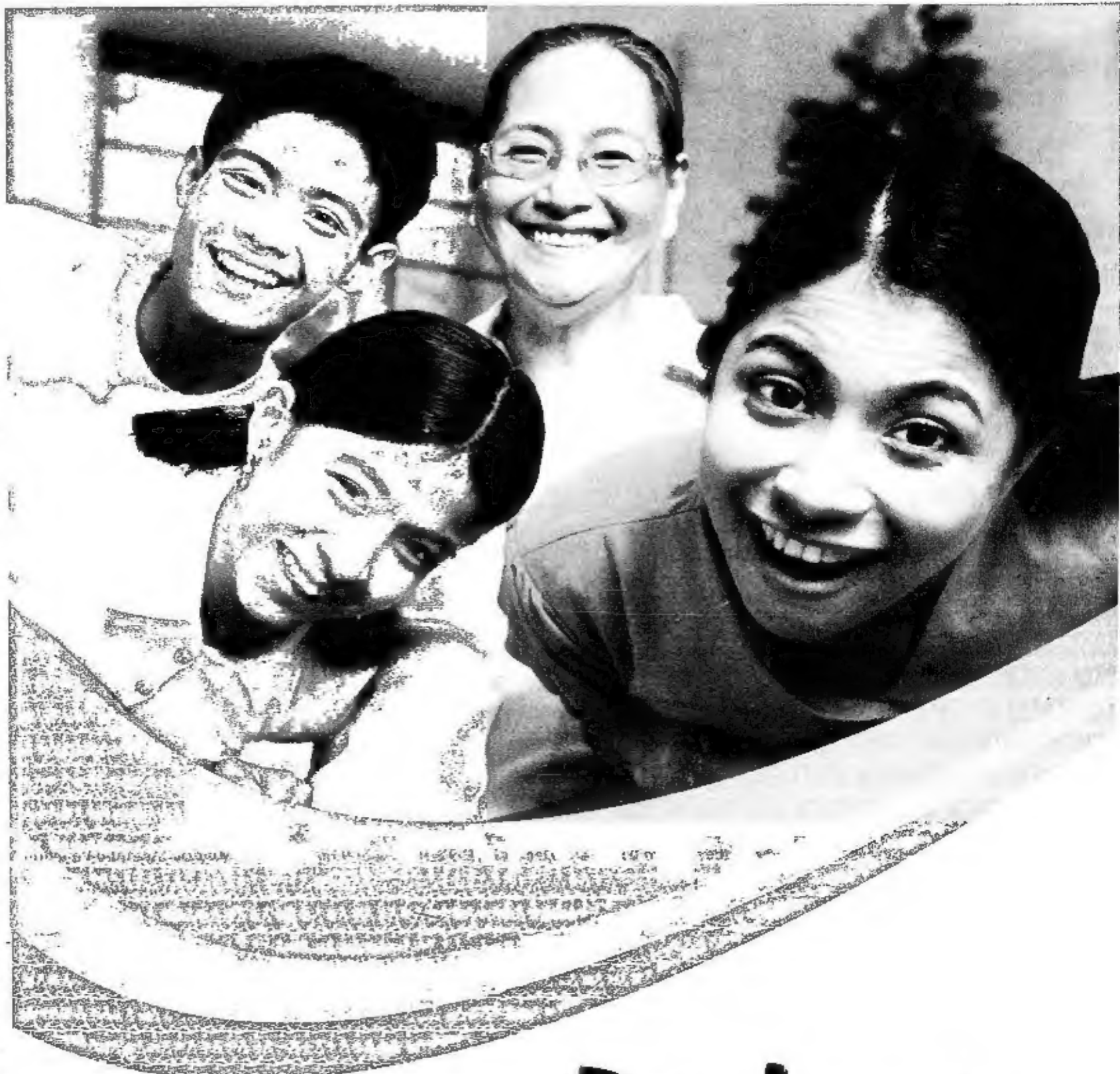
World oil dealers fear Bhutto's assassination on Thursday night, which plunged Pakistan into crisis and sparked concerns about global security, would have a psychological impact on the market even though Pakistan is not an oil producer.

President Arroyo said she was not bothered by this development as her administration remained focused on the delivery of the fruits of the economic and fiscal reform measures that have brought in huge revenues to the national treasury.

She said the tasks of her administration for 2008 are to improve vital infrastructure projects in the urban and rural areas, attract more foreign investment, improve and re-engineer the educational system, and deliver more health services to indigent families.

When she learned that most of the indigent families in Santiago were not receiving health care benefits, Ms Arroyo instructed presidential adviser Alex Mendoza to help them acquire Philippine Health Insurance (PhilHealth) cards.

She said her administration would work harder in 2008 to further improve the country's fiscal position and economic performance and make sure that the benefits of economic progress would be delivered to people's doorsteps in the next three years.



DFA rues closure of Swedish outpost

THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS last week said it was "deeply concerned" over the decision of the Swedish government to close its embassy in Manila at a time when relations between the two countries were "flourishing."

In a statement, Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo made the assurance "that the Philippine Embassy in Stockholm will continue to strengthen the bridges of friendship and partnership" between the two countries.

Romulo noted that Sweden's decision to close its embassy came at a time when "our bilateral trade is growing, our investments are increasing and our tourism exchanges are rising."

Last week, Sweden announced it was closing its embassy in Manila effective June 30 next year, "at the latest."

It said that after the closure, applications for visas to Sweden would be handled by another country's embassy in Manila. It did not say which embassy this would be.

A statement posted on the Swedish Embassy website said the closure was part of the Swedish foreign ministry's "continuous review of its organization abroad" and that the process "sometimes leads to Sweden opening new or closing existing embassies and consulates."



NOKIA

© 2007 Globe Telecom, Inc.

Paskong Panalo

ang buong family dahil sa bagong baby!
Mas madali nang mag-share
ng isang phone ang buong pamilya

Nokia 1200

with multiple folder address book
Pwedeng isang folder kay daddy, isa kay mommy,
isa kay ate, isa kay kuya at isa kay bunso.

Ito ang masayang Pamasko - may sulit na Nokia 1200 prepaid phonekit na, may FREE P50 Sodexo GC pa na pwedeng gamitin sa Jollibee, McDonalds, Red Ribbon at iba pa.

Go to your nearest Globe Business Center for more info.

Phone activated until January 3, 2008. As approved by DTI-MTR. Pre-DTI-MTR Permit No. 4707, Series of 2007.



Globe

VAN HEUSEN
BEST DRESS SHIRTS

CLEARANCE
SALE

FROM JANUARY 10 - FEBRUARY 11, 2008

UP TO
70%
OFF

Erap eyes new Palace run if opposition not united

From page A1

sition group.

"The first option is to find a way to unite the five or six presidential aspirants ... It's too early anyway," Maceda said.

"He [Estrada] did say that in a situation wherein all five will run, (Estrada himself running) is an option ... (It's) a definite deduction that if he does run, all the five presidential aspirants will rally behind him," said Maceda, one of UNO's prime movers in the last senatorial elections.

Maceda said he had talked to retired Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban and was told that the pardon given Estrada was absolute and unconditional.

Does this mean Estrada can run again?

"That's the implication," Maceda said.

Romulo Macalintal, Ms Arroyo's legal counsel on election concerns, begged to differ.

"He cannot run again, not because of the plunder case, but because under the Constitution, no person who had been elected president can run for reelection for the same position," Macalintal said.

He said Estrada could run for any other elective position—barangay captain, senator or vice president.

Only through succession

He said Estrada could still become president but only through succession.

"If he runs for vice president and wins, and the president elected dies, he can be president through succession, not through election," Macalintal said.

He agreed with the observation that Ms Arroyo's pardon of Estrada after he was convicted of plunder was unconditional.

"Some people are saying that Erap may be brought back to prison because he would be violating the condition of his pardon by running. There's nothing to violate because there's no condition," Macalintal said.

Opposition split in '04

Reported to have declared that he could still run for presi-



RUNNING ON SANTA'S TICKET?
Pardoned convict Joseph Estrada distributes gift bags on Saturday to the residents of Payatas and of North Triangle in Quezon City. **JUAN KENDOC**

Erap can run for other posts but not for president

By Beverly T. Natividad

DEPOSED PRESIDENT Joseph Estrada is barred by the Constitution from running for the presidency in 2010, a poll commissioner said yesterday.

"My legal position is he has served his one term as president, although he was not able to complete it. Therefore, he is barred by the Constitution from being elected to another term," said Election Commissioner Rene Sarmiento.

Since the adoption of the 1987 Constitution, former presidents are not allowed to run for another term, said Sarmiento, a member of the 1986 Constitutional Commission that drafted the Constitution.

Sarmiento said that while the government had restored Estrada's political and civil rights, which include the right to vote and to be elected, the constitutional ban still applied to him as a president who had completed a full term.

Not barred

"He may vote but he may not be elected for the position of president in 2010," said Sarmiento.

Estrada, however, is not barred by law from running for other positions, he said.

No election law can stop Estrada from seeking other public positions because the constitutional ban only applies to the presidency.

dent after being pardoned of his plunder conviction, Estrada said he didn't want a repeat of the 2004 elections.

"Fernando Poe won but his lead was far from overwhelming. That's why he was cheated of his victory," Estrada said, referring to his best friend and fellow actor who ran for president in 2004.

Opposition split in '04

Estrada noted that the anti-Arroyo votes were split because opposition Senator Lacson also ran for president and got three million votes. "If he did not run, the opposition would have won," he said.

President Macapagal-Arroyo was declared the winner of the 2004 presidential election, racking up a lead of about a million votes over her strongest rival, Poe.

Other presidential candidates, Raul Roco and evangelist Bro. Eddie Villanueva, also ate into the anti-Arroyo votes.

Estrada initially said that he had yet to make plans for running again for the top elective post. "Right now, I have no plans," Estrada told the *Inquirer*.

Asked if he would change his

mind in the near future, he said it would depend on the opposition failing to field a standard-bearer.

The Sandiganbayan pronounced Estrada guilty of plunder and sentenced him up to 40 years in prison on Sept. 12.

He was convicted for his systematic collection of P545 million in illegal gambling payoffs and his receipt of a P189-million commission from stock market purchases using state pension funds.

On Oct. 25, Ms Arroyo pardoned Estrada, saving him from life imprisonment.

He was impeached in November 2000 and driven out of Malacañang by a people power uprising two months later.

Supreme Court to decide

Told of the constitutional ban on elected presidents running again for the office, Maceda said: "The Supreme Court will be the one that will decide that."

"And may I add that (retired) Chief Justice Panganiban told me that (the issue on the constitutional ban) can go either way. There are good arguments for

both (sides)," he said.

Estrada said the whereas clauses in his executive clemency, particularly the part in which the Arroyo administration recognized that he would no longer run for public office, were "not binding."

"Du'n sa dispositive portion *nagkakatalo* (It's the dispositive portion that counts)," Estrada said.

Estrada said Ms Arroyo herself failed to keep her word when she announced on Dec. 30, 2003, that she was not running in 2004.

Trembling at the thought?

"She even made the statement on Rizal Day. Still, she ran," Estrada said.

He said the dispositive portion of his pardon said that his political (and civil) rights were restored.

"I have the right to vote and to be voted on," Estrada said.

"I voted in the barangay elections. Why didn't they complain?" he said. "What's all the fuss on my running again for president? Are they trembling at the thought?"

Maceda said Estrada's candidacy may only be questioned when he files his certificate of candidacy at the Commission on Elections (Comelec).

He said the Comelec would first hear the protest against his candidacy and its decision is expected to be contested in the Supreme Court.

Maceda said he expects such a case to take its normal course at the Comelec and the Supreme Court, and it would probably only be a few days from the elections before the Supreme Court could decide.

SC to wait for poll results

"I posed a question squarely to Chief Justice Panganiban. I asked him, 'Will the Supreme Court decide the case (on Estrada's running again for president) a few days before the elections?'" Maceda said.

"He said the Supreme Court would not decide. They will just wait for the elections to finish," the former senator said.

With the electorate voting for Estrada? "That's correct," Maceda said.

Ex-ABS-CBN news team holds reunion, talks about the good ole' days

From page A1

Grill on Timog Avenue, Quezon City, just a stone's throw away from the offices of rival network GMA 7.

During the reunion, the unavoidable was discussed—the ratings and network war between ABS-CBN and GMA 7.

It all started when former senior reporter Carmelita Valdez raffled off a black T-shirt with the ABS-CBN News logo in front and printed on the back were these words: "Old ABS-CBN newsroom, iba tayo (We're different)!"

Many of those in attendance shouted: "Iba tayo kasi No. 1 tayo noon at walang ibang kalaban (We were different because we were No. 1 then and we had no competition)!"

A-list

Attending the informal dinner and get-together were Vice President Noli "Kabayan" de Castro who was the original anchor of TV Patrol, former Press Secretary and former vice president for ABS-CBN News and Current Affairs Rod T. Reyes, former Press Undersecretary and original director of TV Patrol and The World Tonight Rolby Reyes, former DZMM and Radyo Patrol top executive Lito Balquedra Jr., former Rep. Gilbert Remulla, Angelica Lazo, Kata Inocencio, Rowena and Gene Oregana, Pal Marquez and Becky Cabral.

Someone had to ask the inevitable: Why was there no question about ABS-CBN's dominance in audience share then, whereas now it has to defend its dominance in the ratings game?

From scratch

Valdez also shared that every time GMA 7 got first crack at an exclusive story or interview, old-timers in the ABS-CBN news team felt hurt or agitated, even years after many of them had severed ties with the giant network.



"WE'RE DIFFERENT," is the rallying cry of former habitués of the ABS-CBN newsroom when its executives and news team of old hold a reunion at Forest Grill Restaurant on Timog Avenue, Quezon City. At center of souvenir photo is Vice President Noli de Castro, himself a distinguished alumnus of the giant network's newsroom. **CONTRIBUTED PHOTO**

"It's because we saw how ABS-CBN started from scratch and earned the trust of the viewers and it's not the same anymore," Valdez said.

She added that the old newsroom was a real family that genuinely cared for each other.

There was no backbiting, no crab mentality, no pretensions, she said. "Our priority then was not to get to the top but to be the first to give the news."

Valdez was among the batch of senior reporters who were forced to retire upon the entry of a new News and Current Affairs group led by Maria Ressa.

From zero

Reyes, fondly called "Tata Rolby," recalled that the success of the old ABS-CBN News and Public Affairs team was "sweet" because "we all started from zero, earning our stripes as we hurdled years of

challenges and hardships."

Remulla said in jest: "ABS-CBN News then was No. 1 because the competition was happy being No. 2."

Jay Sonza, who was one of the brains behind the original TV Patrol, said: "The exclusive tribe of the old newsroom that made ABS-CBN a success is now in extinction."

Sonza, however, failed to attend the get-together.

It's not about ratings

The old-timers said they dream of once again seeing the glory days of ABS-CBN, when delivering the news was not about ratings.

Yambie Yambao, former producer for the Rapid Deployment Unit (RDU) of the network, said it could happen if the current News and Current Affairs group would work as a team, cultivate

and invest time and effort in building resources and contacts.

"Sorry to say, pero kapag nanood ka ng news ngayon, nagpapabongahan lang at alam ng manonood lyon. Hindi tulad noon na nauuna kasi may lirya, may kuneksyon, hindi dahil sa may paunang usapan na (When you watch the news today, the networks are just trying to out-do each other and the audience knows this. In the past, when you were first with the news it was because you worked hard, you had good contacts, not because there was a prior agreement)."

Hurt pride

Yambao said she was hurt by the fact that the pride of the ABS-CBN News of yesteryear was no more.

"They can dispute this pero alam ng mga old-timers na

malaki ang problema nila sa loob, talagang hirap sila and sorry to say, it is about the people, the work force that they have now. Noon, kahit nasa taas, humababa pa rin; ngayon, nasa taas, kayo ang pumunta sa amin (The old-timers know there is a major internal problem. In the past, the people in high positions would reach out to those in the lower positions. But now, the people in the lower positions should be the ones to reach out to those up there)," Yambao said.

The dinner was also attended by employees, on-cam talents and production staff who are still with ABS-CBN.

And the rumor is ...

And at this gathering of current and former colleagues, another unconfirmed piece of news surfaced: To supposedly

save the day, another old-timer might make a comeback sometime soon.

The rumor is ...

A network employee said, "Babalik na si Dong (Dong is coming back)," referring to former Press Secretary and ABS-CBN vice president for News and Current Affairs Ricardo Puno Jr.

Will Puno's comeback make a difference? What will happen to the new batch of news executives headed by Ressa?

Abangan (Stay tuned). For now, it's just "small talk and rumors."

Incidentally, GMA 7's Butch Raquel was also there, being a former ABS-CBN executive.

The night of the get-together was capped by a photo op, with almost everyone in attendance smiling for the camera and shouting: "We are No. 1!"

5 Scout Rangers in '06 attempted coup axed

By Nikko Dizon

FIVE ARMY SCOUT RANGERS WERE dishonorably discharged on Christmas Day for their alleged participation in the February 2006 attempted coup, a military spokesperson said Friday.

Lt. Col. Ernesto Torres said the discharge order, signed by Army chief Lt. Gen. Alexander Yano, was dated Dec. 28 but was retroactive to Dec. 25.

The five had been detained in the Army stockade at Camp Capinpin in Tanay, Rizal, for over a year.

No details yet

Torres said he had yet to read the investigation report and thus could not give details of the discharge.

The five were detained since July last year but the investigation of their participation in the attempt to grab power from President Macapagal-Arroyo by, among others, their commander, Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim, began only on Nov. 9 this year.

Sgt. Orlando Valencia, Corporals Walter Francisco, Ramon Perania Jr. and Reynaldo Pacete, and Pfc. Leon Ones Jr. left Tanay yesterday and are on their way to their respective hometowns.

Gold Cross awardee

Pacete is a Gold Cross recipient for his part in the conquest of Camp Abdurajak, the Abu Sayyaf camp in Basilan, in 2000 that resulted in the release of a number of the bandit group's hostages.

All five served in a unit led by Scout Ranger Capt. Ruben Guinolbay, who is himself detained at Camp Capinpin along with 27 other decorated Marine and Ranger officers including former Marine commandant Maj. Gen. Renato Miranda, Marine Col. Ariel Querubin and Lim.

Lim was transferred to Camp Crame yesterday from Camp Aguinaldo, both in Quezon City, for his participation in the Peninsula Manila hotel takeover on Nov. 29 where he again called for the ouster of President Arroyo along with Navy officer turned senator Antonio Trillanes IV.

40 detained

Without conducting a formal investigation, the Army detained 40 Scout Rangers suspected of being in on the 2006 coup plot.

Of the number, 26 were dismissed from the service in October and another nine were investigated last month.

Torres said that following the investigation, the nine soldiers were reprimanded and have been assigned to Army Headquarters Support Command in Taguig City.

Two of the nine have applied for discharge, Torres said.

With the reprimand, the soldiers will not be promoted or allowed to undergo schooling for a year, Torres said.

In January, the soldiers will undergo training in civil military operations, he said.

WASTONG PAGKAIN, ABOT-KAYANG BILHIN

BILIHIN	PRESYO/kilo	BILIHIN	PRESYO/kilo
NFA Rice	P18.25	Rice Premium	P27-30
<i>Presyo sa lahat ng Barangay Food Terminal at Tindahan Natin.</i>			
Rice Fancy	P30-45	Bangus	P70-90
Tilapia	P60-80	Galunggong	P80-120
Kamatis	P40-60	Pechay	P20-45
Sitaw	P45-60	Talong	P28-60
<i>Presyo sa palengke sa Metro Manila.</i>			
Regular Well Milled	P20-25		
Well Milled Rice	P22-29		
<i>Presyo sa Metro Manila at sa Priority One Provinces: Zamboanga del Norte, Masbate, Maguindanao, Agusan del Sur, Surigao del Norte, Mountain Province, Lanao del Norte, Camarines Norte, Sarangani, Zamboanga Sibugay.</i>			

NUTRI-TIP: Bigyang halaga ang buhay, kumain ng gulay araw-araw.

HOTLINE: 0929-4438014

SOURCE: DA-Bureau of Agricultural Statistics

BORACAY HOLIDAY TREAT

Fly to Boracay for only **P1500***. We take you there 18 times daily.
GO JET DIRECT! BORACAY BY JET!

Asian Spirit
www.asianspirit.com
ONLINE BOOKING & TICKETING

* One way promo fare. Exclusive of taxes & surcharges. Limited seats. Travel valid for 3 months after purchase. Jet service on selected flights.

call: Manila (02) 855.3333 • Boracay (036) 288.3465

Internet kahit saan? Just plug it.

Ngayon abot ka ni BRO saan may PCI Powered by Smart's nationwide coverage*, you can now enjoy wireless broadband anytime, anywhere. Simply connect the Smart BRO wireless broadband modem into your computer's USB port to start surfing the net.

- Up to 7x faster than dial-up
- Up to 40 hours FREE/month**
- Special introductory price of only **P799/month**, good until Feb. 29, 2008

Subscribe to Smart BRO now. Visit any Smart Wireless Center, or call (02) 672-7277 from your landline or *1888 from your Smart cell phone.

Total initial payment of P1,999 upon subscription. New applications are subject to a 24-month lock-in period. Credit guidelines will apply. Bring the following documents: Valid ID, Proof of Billing, Financial Documents (e.g. COE or W2). Subscribers can avail of this product via credit card.

If you need an unlimited broadband connection, you can subscribe to Smart BRO Plan 999.

* Over 1600 cities and municipalities covered.
** In excess of 40 hours, you will be charged P10 per block of 30 minutes.

SMART BROADBAND INC.
SMART THE POWER TO LEAD

Pakistan gov't says Bhutto killed by bump in head

From page A1

killed when she tried to duck back into the armored vehicle during the attack, and the shock waves from the blast smashed her head into a lever attached to the sunroof, fracturing her skull.

He showed reporters a videotape of the attack, which showed Bhutto waving, smiling and chatting with supporters from the sunroof as her vehicle sat unmoving on the street outside the rally. Three gunshots rang out, the camera appeared to fall and the video, which Cheema said was filmed by authorities, then stopped.

Transcript

Denying charges the government failed to give her adequate security protection, Cheema said it was Bhutto who made herself vulnerable and pointed out that the other passengers inside Bhutto's bombproof vehicle were fine.

"I wish she had not come out of the rooftop of her vehicle," he said.

Army in the streets

Bhutto, who was twice prime minister of Pakistan, was laid to rest at her ancestral village in the southern Pakistani province of Sindh on Friday in a ceremony attended by thousands of mourners as riots by her furious supporters continued across the country, leaving more than 30 people dead.

The government sent the army into the streets on Saturday to quell the frenzy of violence, with orders to shoot on sight.

Army, police and paramilitary troops patrolled the nearly deserted streets of Bhutto's home city of Larkana on Saturday, passing the shells of burned cars on the side of the road. Overnight rioting there left shops at a jewelry market smoldering.

Bhutto's party flags, portraits of her and signs welcoming her hung from electricity pylons. Dozens of her grieving supporters gathered to offer prayers at various places throughout the city.

Serious danger

Bhutto's death and the ensuing violence raised concerns that this nuclear-armed nation, plagued by chaos and the growing threat from Islamic militants even before the killing, was in danger of spinning out of control.

The government blamed Bhutto's killing on al-Qaida militants operating with increasing impunity in the lawless tribal areas along the border with Afghanistan and said it would hunt down those responsible for her death.

"They will definitely be brought to justice," said Interior Ministry spokesperson Javed Iqbal Cheema.

'Spectacular job'

The government released a transcript Friday of a purported conversation between militant leader Baitullah Mehsud and another militant.

"It was a spectacular job. They were very brave boys who killed her," Mehsud said, according to the transcript.



PRAYING BY THE GRAVESIDE IN THE BHUTTO MAUSOLEUM are Benazir Bhutto's children Bilawal (center) daughters Balchawar (right), Asifa (2nd right) and Bhutto's younger sister Sanam Bhutto (3rd left).

Cheema described Mehsud as an al-Qaida leader who was also behind the Karachi bomb blast in October against Bhutto that killed more than 140 people and most other recent terrorist attacks in Pakistan.

Mehsud is thought to be the commander of pro-Taliban forces in the tribal region of South Waziristan, where al-Qaida fighters are also active.

In the transcript, Mehsud gives his location as Malkin, a town in South Waziristan.

This fall, he was quoted in a Pakistani newspaper as saying that he would welcome Bhutto's return from exile with suicide bombers. Mehsud later denied that in statements to local television and newspaper reporters.

Bhutto's party rejected claims that Mehsud was behind the attack, saying the militant—through emissaries—had previously told Bhutto he was

not involved in the Karachi bombing.

"The story that al-Qaida or Baitullah Mehsud did it appears to us to be a planted story, an incorrect story, because they want to divert the attention," said Farhatullah Babar, a spokesperson for Bhutto's party.

Babar said Bhutto had earlier told the government of "elements" other than al-Qaida that she thought could be a threat to her, but officials never investigated.

2 probes

Cheema announced the formation of two inquiries into Bhutto's death, one to be carried out by a high court judge and another by security forces.

About half a dozen police investigators sifted through evidence and took measurements Saturday morning at the scene of the shooting and bombing attack on Bhutto in the garrison

city of Rawalpindi that also killed 20 people. More than a dozen officers diverted traffic and provided security for the investigators.

Bhutto's death plunged the nation deep into turmoil less than two weeks before parliamentary elections and sparked deadly rioting that killed at least 27 people, according to an interior ministry official who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media.

Desperate to quell the violence, the government sent troops into the streets of Hyderabad, Karachi and other areas in Sindh province. In Hyderabad, the soldiers refused to let people out of their homes, witnesses said.

Paramilitary rangers were also given the authority to use live fire to stop rioters from damaging property in the region, said Maj. Asad Ali, the rangers' spokesman.

Election on

Prime Minister Mohammed Mian Soomro said the government had no immediate plans to postpone the Jan. 8 parliamentary elections, despite the violence and the decision by Nawaz Sharif, another opposition leader, to boycott the poll.

"Right now the elections stand where they were," he told a news conference.

The United States, which sees Pakistan as a crucial ally in the war on terror, was counting on President Pervez Musharraf to proceed with the vote in the hope it will cement steps toward restoring democracy after

the six-week state of emergency he declared last month.

Bhutto's death left her populist party without a clear successor. Her husband, Asif Ali Zardari, who was freed in December 2004 after eight years in detention on graft charges, is one contender to head the party although he lacks the cachet of being a blood relative from the Bhutto clan's political dynasty.

Burial rites

While many grieving Pakistanis turned to violence, hundreds of thousands of others paid their last respects Friday to the popular opposition leader.

Throughout the day, hundreds of thousands of mourners arrived in Bhutto's ancestral home of Garhi Khuda Bakhsh in tractors, buses, cars and jeeps for her funeral cortege and burial.

Bhutto's plain wood coffin, draped in the red, green and black flag of her Pakistan People's Party, was carried in a white ambulance toward the marble mausoleum, about five kilometers away, passing a burning passenger train on the way.

Many of the mourners threw petals toward the ambulance. Women beat their heads and chests in grief.

An imam led the mourners in prayers and Bhutto's son, Bilawal, and her widowed husband helped lift the coffin into the grave beside that of her father, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, another popular former prime minister who met a violent death.

"As long as the moon and sun are alive, so is the name of Bhutto," supporters chanted. AP with AFP

Oxford friends remember 'fiery, fun' glamorous personality

From page A1

the best parties at Oxford, drove a yellow MG sports car and described her university years, featuring typical student pastimes like punting on the River Cherwell, as the best of her life.

Bhutto studied politics, philosophy and economics at Lady Margaret Hall from 1973 to 1976 and later became an honorary fellow of the college, which was founded in 1878 and pioneered in women's education at Oxford.

Sports car, nice dresses

"She was very charismatic," Victoria Schofield, an author and long-time friend of Bhutto who met her at Oxford, recounted.

"We were a drab lot of 1970s students, messy and not very well-off ... and there was this exotic woman who drove a sports car when we mostly

rode bicycles and had lots of friends." Schofield, who later wrote a book about Bhutto's father, added, "She enjoyed the union but she liked socializing as well, she liked parties and wearing nice dresses."

Alan Duncan, business spokesperson for the main opposition Conservative Party, knew Bhutto for 31 years and was her campaign manager when she became Oxford Union president in 1976.

Their friendship continued after they left university and the pair exchanged e-mails a few days before her death in which he pledged to visit Pakistan to see her being sworn in as prime minister.

From Harvard

"She was fiery and fun, a very dominant personality," he said.

"She had been to Harvard already so she was a little bit older than the rest of

us—she was enormously determined."

The principal of Lady Margaret Hall, Doctor Frances Lannon, said she was "appalled" by Bhutto's assassination, adding, "She was highly regarded as an intelligent student who made many friends here."

Duncan said that Bhutto's father, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, alongside whom the assassinated opposition leader and former prime minister was buried Friday, was ousted from office weeks after she was voted into the prestigious role.

This prompted a wave of protests in the university involving students and academics alike, he said.

Transformed by father's death

"Throughout all of that year in which she had been president, there were campaigns, meetings around Oxford," he said.

But he said it was her father's hang-

ing in 1979 under the regime of military dictator General Zia-ul-Haq which propelled her to "serious political application." He added, "You're on a mission then, aren't you?"

Another Oxford contemporary, author Tariq Ali, echoed this view, writing in the Guardian newspaper: "She was not a natural politician and had always wanted to be a diplomat, but history and personal tragedy pushed her in the other direction."

"Her father's death transformed her."

Memorial

The Oxford Union announced that it would hold a debate in Bhutto's memory on Jan. 17 entitled, "This house believes that the ideal state is a secular state."

It sent its condolences to her family "at this awful time." AFP



WORST CRISIS IN PAKISTAN'S MODERN HISTORY. The assassination of former PM Benazir Bhutto has triggered nationwide violence that had reportedly killed more than 30 people as of press time. The government has called in the armed forces to assist in controlling the law and order situation. AFP

Missing activist couple released ...

From page A1

tally killed and, in my case, raped, was far from the truth," said 32-year-old Fernandez, who gave birth to a baby boy on Nov. 21.

The couple said that during their stay inside the camp of the 62nd Infantry Battalion, which is based in Calbiga, Samar, Ponce and his men treated them kindly although, for the first two months, they were held separately.

Substantial information

It was during this time that the military extracted "substantial information" from the couple, Ponce said.

He said that, among other things, they were able to learn the strength, both in manpower and firearms, of the South Samar Front Commands I and II that operate in the province under a certain "Ka Huling."

Fernandez, who is a native of Dulag, Leyte, but lived in Metro Manila, was the education chair of the Samar Front Command I, according to the military. She was involved in mass organization and recruitment activities.

Her common-law husband, Pajarito, 29, was a full-time NPA member, under the South Samar Front Command II, the military said.

Days after their arrest, the National Democratic Front, the political arm of the CPP and some human rights groups in



JULIET FERNANDEZ CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

the region claimed through a statement that the two had been tortured, raped (in the case of Fernandez) and brutally killed by soldiers of the 62nd IB.

The military arrested Fernandez and Pajarito at around 4 a.m. on May 11 when the van they were riding in was stopped at a checkpoint in Barangay Polangi, Calbiga town in Samar.

The military alleged that the two and their companions were on their way to the city of Catbalogan to collect permit-to-campaign fees from certain politicians. They were brought to the 62nd IB.

"Aside from being trained in the art of warfare, members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines are also trained as sons and daughters of God. We respect and value the rights of an individual," Ponce said.

The two, who were college

students before they joined the movement, said they would try their best to start a new life in Manila for the sake of their baby.

Fernandez, eldest of three siblings from a working class family in Mandaluyong City, was a journalism and sociology student at Polytechnic University of the Philippines in Manila.

Campus paper editor

She wrote for and edited the PUP campus paper, The Catalyst, and was an active member of the College Editors Guild of the Philippines.

She joined the women's group Gabriela in 1997 and was elected secretary general of Gabriela-Youth. She later worked as an organizer for the Amihan National Federation of Peasant Women in Cavite.

When she disappeared, her distraught parents sought the assistance of various militant groups to help them find their daughter. In June, a fact-finding mission was conducted by Karapatan and Gabriela to search for the couple.

The team visited police stations in the province as well as the camps of the 62nd IB in Calbiga and of the 801st Infantry Brigade in Hinabang town.

Officials they talked to denied having custody of the couple but refused to issue a certification saying so.

On Oct. 16, Gabriela

launched a protest action in front of Camp Aguinaldo to demand that the military release Fernandez.

Too afraid to testify

Karapatan had difficulty pursuing legal remedies to secure the couple's release—or at least force the Army to acknowledge having the couple in its custody—because residents who had witnessed the abduction and saw the couple being transferred to various locations allegedly by soldiers were too afraid to testify.

A third activist abducted with the couple, identified only as Jepoy, managed to escape and revealed to Karapatan-Eastern Visayas that they were arrested for being suspected NPA members.

Tortured

Jepoy had recounted how he, Fernandez and Pajarito were detained in separate but adjacent quarters at the camp of the 62nd IB, and were interrogated and tortured by turns for eight days. He said his hands were tied and he was hung for two days, while being denied food and water.

Jepoy also said Juliet was raped while her husband was handcuffed and forced to watch.

However, before he could execute an affidavit, Jepoy again disappeared and efforts to locate him failed, Gabriela later reported.

Militants welcome release of activist couple but ...

By Jerome Anling

MILITANT GROUPS YESTERDAY welcomed the release of activists Juliet Fernandez and her common-law husband Manuel Pajarito, but were skeptical of the couple's initial statements that appeared to be sympathetic to the military.

The couple had been missing for seven months after allegedly being abducted by soldiers in Samar.

Fernandez and Pajarito were "surfaced" by the 62nd Infantry Battalion of the Philippine Army in Tacloban City, the human rights group Karapatan said.

"We're surprised by the testimonies made by Fernandez and Pajarito that they were treated kindly. Their public presentation by the military has all the hallmarks of a staged or scripted play," said Karapatan secretary general Marie Hilao-Enriquez.

Fernandez and Pajarito had gone to Eastern Samar to organize fisherfolk in the Pamansang Lakas ng Kilusang Mamalakaya ng Pilipinas.

'Publicity stunt'

Pamalakaya information officer Gerry Albert Corpuz said the couple's release was a "publicity stunt." He called on the military to stop treating the two as "trophy" and to remove them from Army custody

so that they may freely speak to the media.

Corpuz said Pamalakaya was supposed to launch the "Nasaan si Juliet (Where is Juliet?)" campaign drive in January to speed up efforts to find her and encourage witnesses to come out.

"She last attended our national congress as a delegate of our Samar chapter. She was instrumental in exposing the human rights violations committed by the military against poor fisherfolk in Eastern Visayas," he told the INQUIRER.

Enriquez said the Fernandez-Pajarito "case clearly shows that the military, specifically the 62nd IB, is committing the dastardly act of disappearance, illegal arrests and detention contrary to what government functionaries, under a president who condones and tolerates them, have parroted that they are not involved in any of these crimes on hapless civilians."

Corpuz said Pamalakaya was determined to file cases of illegal arrest and detention or kidnapping against the soldiers responsible.

In November, the INQUIRER interviewed Fernandez's parents, Roberto and Cristeta, who were worried for their daughter's safety and health, since Fernandez had said in a text message that she was pregnant.

Career mo NOWha

Youth Profiling for Starring Careers (YP4SC)

ONLINE NA para sa ating 2.5 Million Filipino Youth and Workers nationwide



**Pamasko ni Pangulong Gloria,
AMA at TESDA**



*Take the INTEREST PROFILER & ABILITY PROFILER
Star Ka! Right Profile, Right Course, Right Job!*

- Objective assessment of your strengths and interests
- Helps you make right career choices
- Identifies the future career that will place you in a "starring role"
- Not a test, no one fails



**Pamaskong Handog ng Pangulo
Pinakabago at FREE na Libro
Tungkol sa Magandang Kinabukasan
Na Naghihintay sayo**

Come to our TESDA office nearest you... www.e-tesda.gov.ph

GMA leads Rizal 111th anniversary rites in La Union

By Michael Lim Ubac

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO will lead today's nationwide commemoration of the 111th anniversary of the martyrdom of Dr. Jose Rizal from a little-known monument to the national hero in San Fernando City in La Union.

For inspiring an oppressed nation to eventually break free of the shackles of Spanish domination, Rizal was executed by a firing squad on orders of Spanish authorities on Dec. 30, 1896, in Bagumbayan, now renamed Rizal Park in his honor.

From Baguio City, the President will board the presidential chopper for the 20-minute flight to San Fernando.

Ms Arroyo will lead the flag-

raising and wreath-laying ceremonies at the Rizal Shrine at 8 a.m.

The rites will be replicated in various places nationwide, including Rizal Park in Manila, and the Rizal Shrines in Calamba, Laguna; Dapitan City, Cebu City and Davao City.

Ms Arroyo will be given full military honors complete with 21-gun salute by Philippine Military Academy cadets upon her arrival at Camp Oscar Florendo in San Fernando.

The President will be welcomed by La Union Gov. Manuel Ortega, Congressman Victor Ortega and Butch Dumpit, San Fernando City Mayor Pablo Ortega, National Historical Institute (NHI) executive director Ludovico Badoy

and Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief of Staff Hermogenes Esperson Jr., among other officials.

Wreath for a hero

After the arrival honors, the President will proceed to the San Fernando plaza to lead the flag-raising ceremony, assisted by the La Union governor, the two congressmen, the city mayor and the NHI executive director.

The President will then lay a wreath at the Rizal memorial shrine.

The theme for this year's celebration is "Isaisip at Isapuso ang Paggunita ng Kabayanihan ni Rizal."

The President, along with her husband Jose Miguel Arroyo and children Evangeline and

Rep. Diosdado Arroyo, flew to Baguio City from Manila at noon Saturday. Rep. Juan Miguel Arroyo and his family will catch up with the First Family in the Pines City today.

Back to Baguio

The occasion is doubly significant for the First Family since it's the first time the President's husband has returned to the city after delicate heart surgery in April.

By nightfall last Easter Sunday, the President's husband was rushed to a hospital in Baguio where he was diagnosed to be suffering from gastritis. Nine hours later, he underwent high-risk surgery in Manila for a life-threatening heart disease—a dissecting aortic aneurysm.

He has since recovered from the surgery, traveling to Hong Kong, and lately, accompanying Ms Arroyo on her visits to France, Spain and the United Kingdom.

As in the past, the First Family will spend New Year at Mansion House, the presidential summer palace, and return to Malacañang on Jan. 2.

Earlier, the President issued Administrative Order No. 214 designating the NHI as the head agency of the National Organizing Committee.

Lecture on Rizal

"The entire country will be commemorating this momentous occasion and the NHI is the agency best fit to organize programs and activities in the ob-

servance of this significant event," Ms Arroyo said when she signed AO 214 on Dec. 17.

She authorized the Department of Budget and Management to release P2 million, charged against the regular budget of the NHI under the General Appropriations Act of 2007, and from other savings to defray the expenses for the 2007 activities.

Meanwhile, the NHI announced the holding of its annual Rizal lecture today at 8 a.m. at Plaza de Armas, Fort Santiago, Intramuros, Manila. NHI chair Ambeth Ocampo will deliver the lecture.

Vice President Noli de Castro and other government dignitaries are expected to attend the two events.

Battle-tested Marines guard monument 14 hours a day

From page A1

Jose Rizal, whose martyrdom in 1896 is being marked today.

"When I was in elementary school in Oriental Mindoro, I thought I'd only see the Rizal monument on the label of a matchbox. I never thought I'd be standing right by it one day as an honor guard," said M/Sgt. Juanito Mayo, 48, who was on guard duty at the Rizal monument in Luneta Park for six years.

"When all the trees have fallen after a storm, only three will remain standing at Luneta—the statue of Rizal and his two Marine honor guards," Mayo said, recalling a quote attributed to the late journalist Teodoro Valencia.

Natural landmark

Attracting hundreds of tourists every day, the monument—a national landmark along Roxas Boulevard in Manila—was erected 17 years after Rizal's execution by the country's Spanish colonial rulers.

A masterpiece in bronze and granite designed by Swiss Dr. Richard Kissling, it stands near the spot where Rizal died by firing squad. Across the monument is the marker for "Km. 0," the starting point for the country's road mapping system.

The Rizal monument is the only statue in the Philippines provided with an honor guard. For decades, guarding it has been a role exclusively given to corporals and sergeants of the Marine Security and Escort Group (MSEG), mostly soldiers with at least a year or two of combat experience against Moro separatists or communist insurgents.

Marines' 'show window'

This unique security detail gives the troopers a sense of pride apart from the valor

earned in the battlefield.

"We (choose) the most qualified to be on duty at the monument. They have to be at least 5'6" in height, of medium build, and must have a military bearing. They have to be snappy," MSEG deputy group commander Lt. Col. Renato Acosta said.

For this, the MSEG has been considered the Marines' "show window" for elegance and poise, Acosta said.

"It makes me proud that I am given the chance and honor to be a guard of our national hero," said S/Sgt. Leonilo Erna, 38, who has been a Rizal sentry for a year now.

Mayo, the most senior of MSEG's 22-member Escort Company, said honor guards have been posted at the monument as far back as the '60s.

The Marines have a standing agreement with the National Parks Development Committee and the Philippine Tourism Authority to provide security at the shrine. The park is also considered within the area of responsibility of the Marines' mother unit, the Philippine Navy, whose headquarters is on Roxas Boulevard, facing Manila Bay.

Thrills, challenges

But S/Sgt. Armando Camodoc, a bemedalled UN peacekeeper who is now on his ninth year as a Rizal honor guard, believes there's a simpler reason the Marines got the Luneta assignment: "The higher command trusts the Marines."

The job may be miles away from the frontlines, but guarding Dr. Rizal, even only on two-and-a-half-hour shifts, poses its own set of thrills and challenges.

Several pairs of Marines, bearing M1 Garand rifles, take turns from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. For much of the shift, the guards stand a few paces apart facing each other



'AFTER A STORM, ONLY 3 REMAIN STANDING IN LUNETTA' Only the most qualified Marines are chosen as the national hero's honor guards at his 94-year-old monument at Kilometer Zero at the Luneta. **RON LIM**

in "parade rest" formation.

To break the monotony, the highly trained drill sergeants would at times march around the monument. When "in the mood," they perform dazzling maneuvers with their rifles.

Rifle exhibition

"After about an hour or 90 minutes (into the shift), we would go around or do a rifle exhibition, especially when there are many park visitors," said Camodoc.

The sight of spinning Garands often attracts tourists out for souvenir photos.

Visitors would sometimes request us to be photographed with them, so we oblige. But that's only for the outgoing guards. The incoming guards are not allowed to do that because they have to proceed to their post," Erna said.

"Most foreigners show re-

spect and bow in front of the monument. That's why it's frustrating at times when there are some Filipino visitors, mostly students, who yell at us, 'He (Rizal) is already dead! Why are you still guarding him?'" Camodoc told the *INQUIRER* in Filipino.

"Others do silly things just to distract you. They wave their hands or shout out orders: 'Attention! Forward march!' Others lay down on the ground in front of you," he said.

The more raucous ones give them "the dirty finger" or hurl expletives. Some even throw stones at the defenseless guards.

The Marines, as part of their discipline, should never retaliate. But when the heckling goes too far and begins to actually harm the guards, a back-up Marine in civilian clothes enters

the scene and intervenes.

"Galaw-galaw, baka ma-stroke (Move a little or you may have a stroke)," said Erna, quoting a park visitor's unsolicited, but actually healthy, piece of advice.

Security cordon

Mayo said a security cordon providing a "safe" distance between guards and spectators was finally installed sometime after an incident in 1999, when an honor guard was slapped by a park visitor and was forced to fight back.

"It was around 11 a.m. and his partner was not at his post. This Marine was by himself and there was this visitor—a student—physically attacking him. He responded by hitting him with his rifle," Mayo said.

The student went to the police to complain, but the police did not press charges because they knew that a Marine honor

guard would not have acted that way if he hadn't been provoked, if he had a choice other than hitting back," Mayo said.

No talking

Marine honor guards are strictly prohibited from talking to each other or to park visitors, or to make unnecessary gestures. They cannot just casually leave their posts without proper turnover ceremonies between shifts.

But what's the protocol when nature calls? Simple: They just have to hold it in for a while.

"With the kind of training we have, within those two and a half hours in the shift we don't easily get lousy. Otherwise, we will not get through the duty at Luneta," said Camodoc.

Of course, Rizal's guards also have their share of "fun" moments while keeping a stoic demeanor.

"Sometimes, there would be children taking a good look at us and arguing: 'That's a statue! No, that's a real person!'" Camodoc smiled.

Endurance test

Extreme weather poses another endurance test. During summer, the guards usually get sunburned. Their uniforms—navy blue tops and white pants on special occasions and khakis on ordinary days—also tend to fade faster.

Come the rainy season, they can "retreat" to the guard houses on either side of the monument only when it gets too stormy and windy that they can't keep their hats on.

"We always tell them before leaving the barracks (for the Luneta) that they should be good-looking, keep their shoes shiny. For once they take their positions at the monument, they cannot afford to relax because people observe them. That's part of our indoctrination," Mayo said.

Sisa, Crispin, Basilio lived here, say Bulacan townsfolk

From page A1

in Rizal's "Noli Me Tangere" published in Berlin in 1887.

"Noli Me Tangere" (Touch Me Not) and its sequel, "El Filibusterismo" (The Reign of Greed), exposed the abuses of the Spanish friars and earned for Rizal the ire of the Spanish authorities.

Rizal was executed on Dec. 30, 1896, and his two books are now required reading for Filipino high school and college students.

Bloodstained walls

Cory Valero-Vergel de Dios, 71, said she first heard the story from her parents and older relatives. Born in 1936, Vergel de Dios spent many summers offering flowers at the church, often playing at the convent after the traditional Flores de Mayo rituals.

She said she and her playmates used to gaze at the blood-stained wall and wander near the well. "The stains were red and clear," Vergel de Dios said.

Gigi Valderrama, who works at the municipal hall, said she heard the story from her mother, who is now in her 80s. She also heard the story from her grandmother, now deceased.

"It's just a story," said Valderrama, who is active in parish activities.



THIS IS SAN JUAN DE DIOS CHURCH in San Rafael, Bulacan, where local lore says Crispin was a sacristan and was treated cruelly by the Spanish parish priest. One night, Crispin disappeared never to be seen again, which caused his mother Sisa to lose her mind. **EDWIN BACASHAS**

Tina, a Manila-based professional in her 20s, heard the tale from her grandparents and described the account as "vague and sketchy."

Tableau

Nonetheless, the room in the convent where Crispin was supposedly tortured to death now has a tableau which has a mannequin resembling Rizal.

The Rizal mannequin sits behind a desk, writing. He faces the well where Crispin's body was supposedly dumped.

In the Noli, Rizal described Crispin as "a timid boy with large black eyes." He and older brother Basilio were employed

in the church as "bell ringers" to help their mother Sisa. Their father was a man who liked going to cockfights and beat their mother.

The boys' unhappy life turned worse when the head sacristan accused Crispin of stealing "two ounces" which was then equivalent to P32. On the day the loss was discovered, Crispin was not allowed to leave the convent, while Basilio was allowed to leave only after 10 p.m., which was past the 9 p.m. curfew.

Last time

Crispin begged Basilio not to leave him because, he said,



GATEWAY TO A FOLK TALE The convent of the San Juan de Dios Church now houses a museum as the repository of the rich heritage of San Rafael, Bulacan. **EDWIN BACASHAS**

"they're going to kill me." The head sacristan dragged Crispin down the stairs from the bell tower and into the shadows. That was the last time Basilio saw his kid brother.

Leaving the convent past curfew, Basilio was met by the guardia civil (the police then) who fired shots. A bullet grazed Basilio's head. Though bleeding from a head wound, he managed to go home to his mother that night.

This is the background to the heartbreaking scene of the madwoman Sisa, who wandered the streets, looking for her sons Crispin and Basilio.

Some San Rafaelenos believe

this scene actually happened here during the Spanish colonial era.

Catholic town

Founded as a Spanish settlement in 1750, San Rafael is a deeply Catholic town. Residents make sure they get married in the same church where they were christened. When church bells peal at 6 p.m., residents pause to say the Angelus.

Located some 150 kilometers north of Manila, the town is accessible via narrow, badly paved roads. According to the 2000 annual census, San Rafael has a population of 169,776 with 14,659 households.

Msr. Filemon Capiral said the town has a rich heritage. "The residents, although most have gone abroad, are helping preserve the heritage," he said.

Four years ago, Fr. Dennis Espejo, who was then the parish priest, organized the Committee on the Cultural Heritage of San Rafael.

Little-known history

Espejo raised funds from residents who made good here and abroad and established a museum.

The museum, located on the second floor of the convent, showcases a collection of religious icons and vestments, antique furniture and furnishings. The room with the bloodstained wall is part of the museum.

There is a not so well-known historical fact about the San Juan de Dios Church. It was the site of one of the bloodiest battles between the Katipuneros and the Spanish troops.

According to the church's historical marker, Katipuneros led by Gen. Anacleto Enriquez and Spanish troops under Lt. Col. Lopez Arreaga fought fiercely at the site. When the smoke cleared, an estimated 800 men were dead, among them the 20-year-old Enriquez, who was a good friend of another Bulakeño, the boy general, Gregorio del Pilar.

Makati readies New Year bash, but motorists warned

By Julie M. Aurelio

MOTORISTS HAD BETTER AVOID Makati tomorrow as Mayor Jejomar Binay pulls out all the stops to stage the city's countdown to the New Year on Ayala Avenue in which thousands of revelers are expected to participate.

The city government is deploying 700 police, medical and public safety personnel to provide security during the fireworks display on New Year's Eve. Much of the activity will be centered in the intersection of Makati and Ayala avenues in front of the Peninsula Manila hotel.

"With close to a thousand medical and security personnel attending to the city's guests, we expect our countdown to be one of the safest and most fun ways to usher in 2008. We have taken the necessary precautions," Binay said.

"The New Year's Eve countdown

is our little way of celebrating and sharing love with all of Makati City and the Filipino people," he said.

Binay said the event is also a fundraising drive of the city government and the Sagip Kapamilya program of the ABS-CBN Foundation. Cash donations will be accepted during the affair, for which donors will get raffle tickets which will give them the chance to win gadgets and P1 million in cash.

The stretch of Ayala Avenue from Makati Avenue to Paseo de Roxas will be closed to traffic, as well as portions of Makati Avenue from Paseo de Roxas to Ayala Avenue, according to Hermenegildo San Miguel, chief of Makati's Department of Public Safety.

The traffic rerouting scheme took effect on Friday night to enable crews to begin ground preparations.

Motorists have been advised to take these alternate routes:

Passenger buses coming from the Light Rail Transit should take Buendia Avenue while buses coming from Edsa/Ayala Avenue can turn right to Buendia Avenue.

Buses coming from Edsa could also turn right on Arnaiz Avenue, right to Paseo de Roxas and left at Ayala Avenue.

Jeepneys coming from Washington/Buendia can make a right at Ayala Avenue and another right turn to Salcedo Street. Others coming from Edsa/Ayala can use Buendia Avenue.

Private vehicles coming from LRT/South Superhighway/Buendia going to the Central Business District can turn right on Ayala Avenue, then turn right to Paseo de Roxas.

Those coming from Edsa/Ayala going to Ayala Center can turn right on Ayala Avenue and then left to Hotel Drive or North Drive before making a left on Makati Avenue.

Motorists coming from Edsa can likewise turn right to Ayala Avenue and then make another right turn at Apartment Ridge.

San Miguel said public parking areas have been designated along the length of De la Rosa Street and Paseo de Roxas.

FREE PLANE TICKETS BORACAY 7799

ONLY PER PERSON

INCLUSIONS:

- > Free Roundtrip Plane Tickets
- > 2 Nights / 3 Days Vacation
- > Breakfast Meals
- > Complete Kitchen Set
- > VIP Island Transfers
- > First Class Villa

LOWEST-BEST PEAK-SEASON RATE

TXN AND WE CALL YOU! SUN CELLULAR: 0922-888-3577 GLOBE: 0917-627-3754

LOUIE'S PHARMACY
DRUGS
QUALITY SERVICE WITH A SMILE
Authorized by DO / GPP Certified Pharmacist / WHO Approved
Priority Patient Care

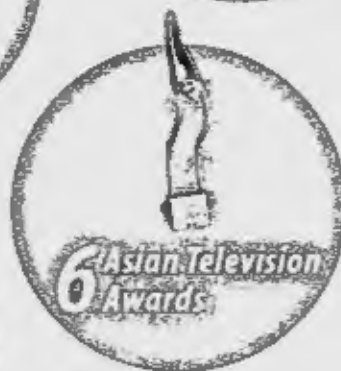
PRODUCT	SRP	SAVINGS
Orlistat 120mg Capsule	99.75	6.75
Chlorhexidine 75mg Tablet	24.75	31.50
Amoxicillin 500mg 10mg Tablet	18.75	34.75
Cefuroxime 500mg Tablet	20.50	35.00
Levofloxacin 500mg Tablet	33.50	37.50
Warfarin 5mg Tablet	75.00	48.75
Warfarin 10mg Tablet	32.50	45.75
Metoprolol 50mg Tablet	35.00	35.00
Metoprolol 7.5mg Tablet	23.00	10.75
Sildenafil 50mg Tablet	30.00	42.50
Sildenafil 100mg Tablet	64.50	52.00
Captopril 50mg Capsule	38.00	32.00
Captopril 100mg Capsule	31.00	33.00
Cefazolin 500mg Capsule	25.00	6.25
Cefazolin 250mg Tablet	14.00	13.75
Paracetamol 500mg Tablet	12.00	5.75
Paracetamol 1000mg Tablet	20.00	15.50

*Some savings against leading brand
Hospitalized 30 / 15 / 10 / 5 / 10 / 15 / 20 / 25 / 30 / 35 / 40 / 45 / 50 / 55 / 60 / 65 / 70 / 75 / 80 / 85 / 90 / 95 / 100 / 105 / 110 / 115 / 120 / 125 / 130 / 135 / 140 / 145 / 150 / 155 / 160 / 165 / 170 / 175 / 180 / 185 / 190 / 195 / 200 / 205 / 210 / 215 / 220 / 225 / 230 / 235 / 240 / 245 / 250 / 255 / 260 / 265 / 270 / 275 / 280 / 285 / 290 / 295 / 300 / 305 / 310 / 315 / 320 / 325 / 330 / 335 / 340 / 345 / 350 / 355 / 360 / 365 / 370 / 375 / 380 / 385 / 390 / 395 / 400 / 405 / 410 / 415 / 420 / 425 / 430 / 435 / 440 / 445 / 450 / 455 / 460 / 465 / 470 / 475 / 480 / 485 / 490 / 495 / 500 / 505 / 510 / 515 / 520 / 525 / 530 / 535 / 540 / 545 / 550 / 555 / 560 / 565 / 570 / 575 / 580 / 585 / 590 / 595 / 600 / 605 / 610 / 615 / 620 / 625 / 630 / 635 / 640 / 645 / 650 / 655 / 660 / 665 / 670 / 675 / 680 / 685 / 690 / 695 / 700 / 705 / 710 / 715 / 720 / 725 / 730 / 735 / 740 / 745 / 750 / 755 / 760 / 765 / 770 / 775 / 780 / 785 / 790 / 795 / 800 / 805 / 810 / 815 / 820 / 825 / 830 / 835 / 840 / 845 / 850 / 855 / 860 / 865 / 870 / 875 / 880 / 885 / 890 / 895 / 900 / 905 / 910 / 915 / 920 / 925 / 930 / 935 / 940 / 945 / 950 / 955 / 960 / 965 / 970 / 975 / 980 / 985 / 990 / 995 / 1000 / 1005 / 1010 / 1015 / 1020 / 1025 / 1030 / 1035 / 1040 / 1045 / 1050 / 1055 / 1060 / 1065 / 1070 / 1075 / 1080 / 1085 / 1090 / 1095 / 1100 / 1105 / 1110 / 1115 / 1120 / 1125 / 1130 / 1135 / 1140 / 1145 / 1150 / 1155 / 1160 / 1165 / 1170 / 1175 / 1180 / 1185 / 1190 / 1195 / 1200 / 1205 / 1210 / 1215 / 1220 / 1225 / 1230 / 1235 / 1240 / 1245 / 1250 / 1255 / 1260 / 1265 / 1270 / 1275 / 1280 / 1285 / 1290 / 1295 / 1300 / 1305 / 1310 / 1315 / 1320 / 1325 / 1330 / 1335 / 1340 / 1345 / 1350 / 1355 / 1360 / 1365 / 1370 / 1375 / 1380 / 1385 / 1390 / 1395 / 1400 / 1405 / 1410 / 1415 / 1420 / 1425 / 1430 / 1435 / 1440 / 1445 / 1450 / 1455 / 1460 / 1465 / 1470 / 1475 / 1480 / 1485 / 1490 / 1495 / 1500 / 1505 / 1510 / 1515 / 1520 / 1525 / 1530 / 1535 / 1540 / 1545 / 1550 / 1555 / 1560 / 1565 / 1570 / 1575 / 1580 / 1585 / 1590 / 1595 / 1600 / 1605 / 1610 / 1615 / 1620 / 1625 / 1630 / 1635 / 1640 / 1645 / 1650 / 1655 / 1660 / 1665 / 1670 / 1675 / 1680 / 1685 / 1690 / 1695 / 1700 / 1705 / 1710 / 1715 / 1720 / 1725 / 1730 / 1735 / 1740 / 1745 / 1750 / 1755 / 1760 / 1765 / 1770 / 1775 / 1780 / 1785 / 1790 / 1795 / 1800 / 1805 / 1810 / 1815 / 1820 / 1825 / 1830 / 1835 / 1840 / 1845 / 1850 / 1855 / 1860 / 1865 / 1870 / 1875 / 1880 / 1885 / 1890 / 1895 / 1900 / 1905 / 1910 / 1915 / 1920 / 1925 / 1930 / 1935 / 1940 / 1945 / 1950 / 1955 / 1960 / 1965 / 1970 / 1975 / 1980 / 1985 / 1990 / 1995 / 2000 / 2005 / 2010 / 2015 / 2020 / 2025 / 2030 / 2035 / 2040 / 2045 / 2050 / 2055 / 2060 / 2065 / 2070 / 2075 / 2080 / 2085 / 2090 / 2095 / 2100 / 2105 / 2110 / 2115 / 2120 / 2125 / 2130 / 2135 / 2140 / 2145 / 2150 / 2155 / 2160 / 2165 / 2170 / 2175 / 2180 / 2185 / 2190 / 2195 / 2200 / 2205 / 2210 / 2215 / 2220 / 2225 / 2230 / 2235 / 2240 / 2245 / 2250 / 2255 / 2260 / 2265 / 2270 / 2275 / 2280 / 2285 / 2290 / 2295 / 2300 / 2305 / 2310 / 2315 / 2320 / 2325 / 2330 / 2335 / 2340 / 2345 / 2350 / 2355 / 2360 / 2365 / 2370 / 2375 / 2380 / 2385 / 2390 / 2395 / 2400 / 2405 / 2410 / 2415 / 2420 / 2425 / 2430 / 2435 / 2440 / 2445 / 2450 / 2455 / 2460 / 2465 / 2470 / 2475 / 2480 / 2485 / 2490 / 2495 / 2500 / 2505 / 2510 / 2515 / 2520 / 2525 / 2530 / 2535 / 2540 / 2545 / 2550 / 2555 / 2560 / 2565 / 2570 / 2575 / 2580 / 2585 / 2590 / 2595 / 2600 / 2605 / 2610 / 2615 / 2620 / 2625 / 2630 / 2635 / 2640 / 2645 / 2650 / 2655 / 2660 / 2665 / 2670 / 2675 / 2680 / 2685 / 2690 / 2695 / 2700 / 2705 / 2710 / 2715 / 2720 / 2725 / 2730 / 2735 / 2740 / 2745 / 2750 / 2755 / 2760 / 2765 / 2770 / 2775 / 2780 / 2785 / 2790 / 2795 / 2800 / 2805 / 2810 / 2815 / 2820 / 2825 / 2830 / 2835 / 2840 / 2845 / 2850 / 2855 / 2860 / 2865 / 2870 / 2875 / 2880 / 2885 / 2890 / 2895 / 2900 / 2905 / 2910 / 2915 / 2920 / 2925 / 2930 / 2935 / 2940 / 2945 / 2950 / 2955 / 2960 / 2965 / 2970 / 2975 / 2980 / 2985 / 2990 / 2995 / 3000 / 3005 / 3010 / 3015 / 3020 / 3025 / 3030 / 3035 / 3040 / 3045 / 3050 / 3055 / 3060 / 3065 / 3070 / 3075 / 3080 / 3085 / 3090 / 3095 / 3100 / 3105 / 3110 / 3115 / 3120 / 3125 / 3130 / 3135 / 3140 / 3145 / 3150 / 3155 / 3160 / 3165 / 3170 / 3175 / 3180 / 3185 / 3190 / 3195 / 3200 / 3205 / 3210 / 3215 / 3220 / 3225 / 3230 / 3235 / 3240 / 3245 / 3250 / 3255 / 3260 / 3265 / 3270 / 3275 / 3280 / 3285 / 3290 / 3295 / 3300 / 3305 / 3310 / 3315 / 3320 / 3325 / 3330 / 3335 / 3340 / 3345 / 3350 / 3355 / 3360 / 3365 / 3370 / 3375 / 3380 / 3385 / 3390 / 3395 / 3400 / 3405 / 3410 / 3415 / 3420 / 3425 / 3430 / 3435 / 3440 / 3445 / 3450 / 3455 / 3460 / 3465 / 3470 / 3475 / 3480 / 3485 / 3490 / 3495 / 3500 / 3505 / 3510 / 3515 / 3520 / 3525 / 3530 / 3535 / 3540 / 3545 / 3550 / 3555 / 3560 / 3565 / 3570 / 3575 / 3580 / 3585 / 3590 / 3595 / 3600 / 3605 / 3610 / 3615 / 3620 / 3625 / 3630 / 3635 / 3640 / 3645 / 3650 / 3655 / 3660 / 3665 / 3670 / 3675 / 3680 / 3685 / 3690 / 3695 / 3700 / 3705 / 3710 / 3715 / 3720 / 3725 / 3730 / 3735 / 3740 / 3745 / 3750 / 3755 / 3760 / 3765 / 3770 / 3775 / 3780 / 3785 / 3790 / 3795 / 3800 / 3805 / 3810 / 3815 / 3820 / 3825 / 3830 / 3835 / 3840 / 3845 / 3850 / 3855 / 3860 / 3865 / 3870 / 3875 / 3880 / 3885 / 3890 / 3895 / 3900 / 3905 / 3910 / 3915 / 3920 / 3925 / 3930 / 3935 / 3940 / 3945 / 3950 / 3955 / 3960 / 3965 / 3970 / 3975 / 3980 / 3985 / 3990 / 3995 / 4000 / 4005 / 4010 / 4015 / 4020 / 4025 / 4030 / 4035 / 4040 / 4045 / 4050 / 4055 / 4060 / 4065 / 4070 / 4075 / 4080 / 4085 / 4090 / 4095 / 4100 / 4105 / 4110 / 4115 / 4120 / 4125 / 4130 / 4135 / 4140 / 4145 / 4150 / 4155 / 4160 / 4165 / 4170 / 4175 / 4180 / 4185 / 4190 / 4195 / 4200 / 4205 / 4210 / 4215 / 4220 / 4225 / 4230 / 4235 / 4240 / 4245 / 4250 / 4255 / 4260 / 4265 / 4270 / 4275 / 4280 / 4285 / 4290 / 4295 / 4300 / 4305 / 4310 / 4315 / 4320 / 4325 / 4330 / 4335 / 4340 / 4345 / 4350 / 4355 / 4360 / 4365 / 4370 / 4375 / 4380 / 4385 / 4390 / 4395 / 4400 / 4405 / 4410 / 4415 / 4420 / 4425 / 4430 / 4435 / 4440 / 4445 / 4450 / 4455 / 4460 / 4465 / 4470 / 4475 / 4480 / 4485 / 4490 / 4495 / 4500 / 4505 / 4510 / 4515 / 4520 / 4525 / 4530 / 4535 / 4540 / 4545 / 4550 / 4555 / 4560 / 4565 / 4570 / 4575 / 4580 / 4585 / 4590 / 4595 / 4600 / 4605 / 4610 / 4615 / 4620 / 4625 / 4630 / 4635 / 4640 / 4645 / 4650 / 4655 / 4660 / 4665 / 4670 / 4675 / 4680 / 4685 / 4690 / 4695 / 4700 / 4705 / 4710 / 4715 / 4720 / 4725 / 4730 / 4735 / 4740 / 4745 / 4750 / 4755 / 4760 / 4765 / 4770 / 4775 / 4780 / 4785 / 4790 / 4795 / 4800 / 4805 / 4810 / 4815 / 4820 / 4825 / 4830 / 4835 / 4840 / 4845 / 4850 / 4855 / 4860 / 4865 / 4870 / 4875 / 4880 / 4885 / 4890 / 4895 / 4900 / 4905 / 4910 / 4915 / 4920 / 4925 / 4930 / 4935 / 4940 / 4945 / 4950 / 4955 / 4960 / 4965 / 4970 / 4975 / 4980 / 4985 / 4990 / 4995 / 5000 / 5005 / 5010 / 5015 / 5020 / 5025 / 5030 / 5035 / 5040 / 5045 / 5050 / 5055 / 5060 / 5065 / 5070 / 5075 / 5080 / 5085 / 5090 / 5095 / 5100 / 5105 / 5110 / 5115 / 5120 / 5125 / 5130 / 5135 / 5140 / 5145 / 5150 / 5155 / 5160 / 5165 / 5170 / 5175 / 5180 / 5185 / 5190 / 5195 / 5200 / 5205 / 5210 / 5215 / 5220 / 5225 / 5230 / 5235 / 5240 / 5245 / 5250 / 5255 / 5260 / 5265 / 5270 / 5275 / 5280 / 5285 / 5290 / 5295 / 5300 / 5305 / 5310 / 5315 / 5320 / 5325 / 5330 / 5335 / 5340 / 5345 / 5350 / 5355 / 5360 / 5365 / 5370 / 5375 / 5380 / 5385 / 5390 / 5395 / 5400 / 5405 / 5410 / 5415 / 5420 / 5425 / 5430 / 5435 / 5440 / 5445 / 5450 / 5455 / 5460 / 5465 / 5470 / 5475 / 5480 / 5485 / 5490 / 5495 / 5500 / 5505 / 5510 / 5515 / 5520 / 5525 / 5530 / 5535 / 5540 / 5545 / 5550 / 5555 / 5560 / 5565 / 5570 / 5575 / 5580 / 5585 / 5590 / 5595 / 5600 / 5605 / 5610 / 5615 / 5620 / 5625 / 5630 / 5635 / 5640 / 5645 / 5650 / 5655 / 5660 / 5665 / 5670 / 5675 / 5680 / 5685 / 5690 / 5695 / 5700 / 5705 / 5710 / 5715 / 5720 / 5725 / 5730 / 5735 / 5740 / 5745 / 5750 / 5755 / 5760 / 5765 / 5770 / 5775 / 5780 / 5785 / 5790 / 5795 / 5800 / 5805 / 5810 / 5815 / 5820 / 5825 / 5830 / 5835 / 5840 / 5845 / 5850 / 5855 / 5860 / 5865 / 5870 / 5875 / 5880 / 5885 / 5890 / 5895 / 5900 / 5905 / 5910 / 5915 / 5920 / 5925 / 5930 / 5935 / 5940 / 5945 / 5950 / 5955 / 5960 / 5965 / 5970 / 5975 / 5980 / 5985 / 5990 / 5995 / 6000 / 6005 / 6010 / 6015 / 6020 / 6025 / 6030 / 6035 / 6040 / 6045 / 6050 / 6055 / 6060 / 6065 / 6070 / 6075 / 6080 / 6085 / 6090 / 6095 / 6100 / 6105 / 6110 / 6115 / 6120 / 6125 / 6130 / 6135 / 6140 / 6145 / 6150 / 6155 / 6160 / 6165 / 6170 / 6175 / 6180 / 6185 / 6190 / 6195 / 6200 / 6205 / 6210 / 6215 / 6220 / 6225 / 6230 / 6235 / 6240 / 6245 / 6250 / 6255 / 6260 / 6265 / 6270 / 6275 / 6280 / 6285 / 6290 / 6295 / 6300 / 6305 / 6310 / 6315 / 6320 / 6325 / 6330 / 6335 / 6340 / 6345 / 6350 / 6355 / 6360 / 6365 / 6370 / 6375 / 6380 / 6385 / 6390 / 6395 / 6400 / 6405 / 6410 / 6415 / 6420 / 6425 / 6430 / 6435 / 6440 / 6445 / 6450 / 6455 / 6460 / 6465 / 6470 / 6475 / 6480 / 6485 / 6490 / 6495 / 6500 / 6505 / 6510 / 6515 / 6520 / 6525 / 6530 / 6535 / 6540 / 6545 / 6550 / 6555 / 6560 / 6565 / 6570 / 6575 / 6580 / 6585 / 6590 / 6595 / 6600 / 6605 / 6610 / 6615 / 6620 / 6625 / 6630 / 6635 / 6640 / 6645 / 6650 / 6655 / 6660 / 6665 / 6670 / 6675 / 6680 / 6685 / 6690 / 6695 / 6700 / 6705 / 6710 / 6715 / 6720 / 6725 / 6730 / 6735 / 6740 / 6745 / 6750 / 6755 / 6760 / 6765 / 6770 / 6775 / 6780 / 6785 / 6790 / 6795 / 6800 / 6805 / 6810 / 6815 / 6820 / 6825 / 6830 / 6835 / 6840 / 6845 / 6850 / 6855 / 6860 / 6865 / 6870 / 6875 / 6880 / 6885 / 6890 / 6895 / 6900 / 6905 / 6910 / 6915 / 6920 / 6925 / 6930 / 6935 / 6940 / 6945 / 6950 / 6955 / 6960 / 6965 / 6970 / 6975 / 6980 / 6985 / 6990 / 6995 / 7000 / 7005 / 7010 / 7015 / 7020 / 7025 / 7030 / 7035 / 7040 / 7045 / 7050 / 7055 / 7060 / 7065 / 7070 / 7075 / 7080 / 7085 / 7090 / 7095 / 7100 / 7105 / 7110 / 7115 / 7120 / 7125 / 7130 / 7135 / 7140 / 7145 / 7150 / 7155 / 7160 / 7165 / 7170 / 7175 / 7180 / 7185 / 7190 / 7195 / 7200 / 7205 / 7210 / 7215 / 7220 / 7225 / 7230 / 7235 / 7240 / 7245 / 7250 / 7255 / 7260 / 7265 / 7270 / 7275 / 7280 / 7285 / 7290 / 7295 / 7300 / 7305 / 7310 / 7315 / 7320 / 7325 / 7330 / 7335 / 7340 / 7345 / 7350 / 7355 / 7360 / 7365 / 7370 / 7375 / 7380 / 7385 / 7390 / 7395 / 7400 / 7405 / 7410 / 7415 / 7420 / 7425 / 7430 / 7435 / 7440 / 7445 / 7450 / 7455 / 7460 / 7465 / 7470 / 7475 / 7480 / 7485 / 7490 / 7495 / 7500 / 7505 / 7510 / 7515 / 7520 / 7525 / 7530 / 7535 / 7540 / 7545 / 7550 / 7555 / 7560 / 7565 / 7570 / 7575 / 7580 / 7585 / 7590 / 7595 / 7600 / 7605 / 7610 / 7615 / 7620 / 7625 / 7630 / 7635 / 7640 / 7645 / 7650 / 7655 / 7660 / 7665 / 7670 / 7675 / 7680 / 7685 / 7690 / 7695 / 7700 / 7705 / 7710 / 7715 / 7720 / 7725 / 7730 / 7735 / 7740 / 7745 / 7750 / 7755 / 7760 / 7765 / 7770 / 7775 / 7780 / 7785 / 7790 / 7795 / 7800 / 7805 / 7810 / 7815 / 7820 / 7825 / 7830 / 7835 / 7840 / 7845 / 7850 / 7855 / 7860 / 7865 / 7870 / 7875 / 7880 / 7885 / 7890 / 7895 / 7900 / 7905 / 7910 / 7915 / 7920 / 7925 / 7930 / 7935 / 7940 / 7945 / 7950 / 7955 / 7960 / 7965 / 7970 / 7975 / 7980 / 7985 / 7990 / 7995 / 8000 / 8005 / 8010 / 8015 / 8020 / 8025 / 8030 / 8035 / 8040 / 8045 / 8050 / 8055 / 8060 / 8065 / 8070 / 8075 / 8080 / 8085 / 8090 / 8095 / 8100 / 8105 / 8110 / 8115 / 8120 / 8125 / 8130 / 8135 / 8140 / 8145 / 8150 / 8155 / 8160 / 8165 / 8170 / 8175 / 8180 / 8185 / 8190 / 8195 / 8200 / 8205 / 8210 / 8215 / 8220 / 8225 / 8230 / 8235 / 8240 / 8245 / 8250 / 8255 / 8260 / 8265 / 8270 / 8275 / 8280 / 8285 / 8290 / 8295 / 8300 / 8305 / 8310 / 8315 / 8320 / 8325 / 8330 / 8335 / 8340 / 8345 / 8350 / 8355 / 8360 / 8365 / 8370 / 8375 / 8380 / 8385 / 8390 / 8395 / 8400 / 8405 / 8410 / 8415 / 8420 / 8425 / 8430 / 8435 / 8440 / 8445 / 8450 / 8455 /

**ANG BAWAT PARANGAL NA AMING NAKAMIT
AY PARANGAL PARA SA BAWAT PILIPINO.**



**Mahigit
100
Local at
International
Awards**



**3
Best TV Station
of the Year**

Asian TV Awards
KBP Golden Dove Awards
Star Awards for Television



**A First in Philippine
Broadcasting History
International
Emmy Awards**

First Philippine Newscast to be
nominated in the News Category
BANDILA



**2
Best AM
Radio Station
of the Year**

KBP Golden Dove Awards
Rotary Club of Manila



**Maraming salamat, Kapamilya
sa isang taon ng makabuluhang pagsasama.**

**One World
One Network
One Family**

**5
ABS-CBN**



IT'S A DIVE...

Mary Poppins she's not but one of the high divers of the world-renowned Oliver's Water Shows which has been attracting crowds to Enchanted Kingdom in Santa Rosa, Laguna. Tricky synchronized high dives are part of the performers' repertoire.

ERNE L. SANTIAGO

Quiz bee in final rounds

AFTER CONDUCTING DIFFERENT levels of elimination nationwide, the 28th National Quiz Bee draws to its finals in two parts on Dec. 30 and Jan. 6 at 6 p.m. at the Development Academy of the Philippines auditorium in Tagaytay City.

The contest will air on television's Studio 23.

Finalists are the regional winners in the categories of Elementary Makabayan (Philippine History, Culture and Sports), Elementary Mathematics, High School Science and Technology, and Collegiate General Information and International Affairs.

Initially, six million students joined the bee.

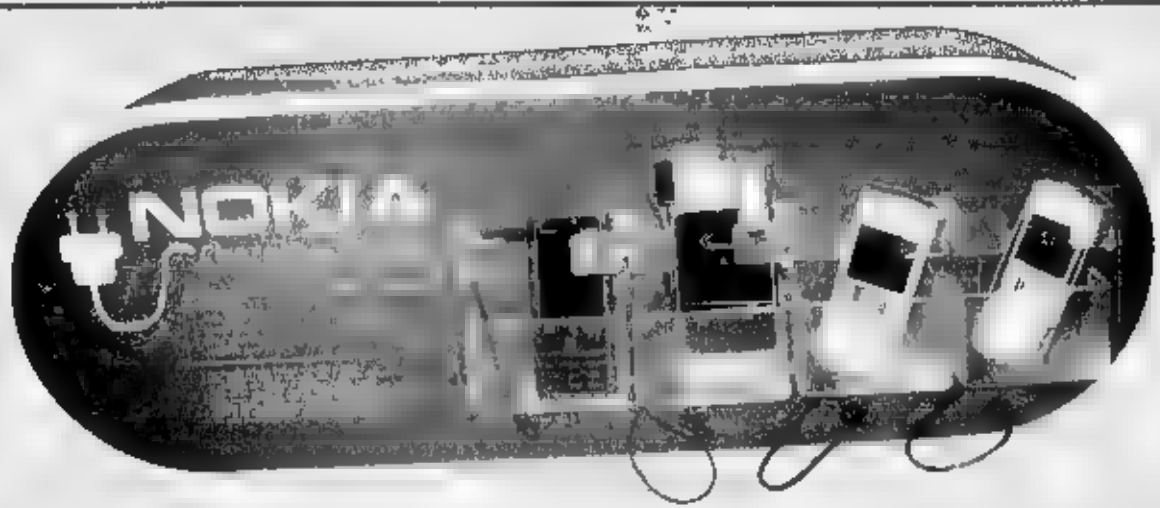
The regional champions and their teachers were treated to a four-day camp at the DAP conference center in Tagaytay dubbed the "Summit of the Super Quiz Bees," with tours, seminars and fellowships in preparation for the competition.

"These activities gave all contenders an opportunity to bond with their co-competitors and understand the values of learning and healthy competition," said Pettizou Tayag, vice president of the Quiz Bee Foundation.

At stake for the four national champion students are: The President Gloria Macapaga-Arroyo Trophy, Quiz Bee Gold Medalion of Excellence, Quiz Bee National Champion Certificate, P70,000 education plan, P100,000 life insurance policy, encyclopedia set, multimedia computer system, mobile phone, MP3 player, gift packages and certificates from World of Fun and other prizes.

Winning teachers, schools, divisions and regions will also receive prizes.

Details may be obtained from Tayag at tel. 741-0856.



Nokia: Charging Up the Holidays

It was the nightmare before Christmas. You're lost in the middle of last-minute Christmas shopping while waiting for an important call or text message. Suddenly, your phone indicates that it's low batt. You try looking for your charger in your bag but then you remember leaving it at home. At that moment, you also realize that if even you did have your charger, you still would end up begging for a place to charge up since most establishments are not eager to share their electrical sockets.

Nokia knows that this nightmare is in-

deed an everyday reality. To address this glaring and ever-present need, it introduced a special service only here in the Philippines. As a holiday treat, Nokia came up with the Nokia Charging Station project to give back to its loyal users by keeping them charged up and connected.

The mobile

phone giant has installed over 200 Nokia Charging Stations in places where people are always on-the-go. Now everyone with a Nokia phone can charge up for free at selected Ayala Cinemas, KFC outlets, Nokia Stores, Nokia Care Centers, Smart Wireless Centers, and Wendy's branches.

Initial reception of the Nokia charging stations has been extremely encouraging. Those who have experienced its convenience consider it a lifesaver and seek it out whenever their battery meters run low.

"It's very helpful, especially for people like me who are always on the road. Like yesterday, I went to Wendy's to charge up my phone and eat something while waiting," says Alex Betonio.

"I was in Greenbelt 3 cinema and my phone's battery was almost totally drained. Good thing there was a charging station so I was able to charge up and receive an important call from my mom," adds Abby Espiritu.

The innovative mobile phone company plans to install more charging stations nationwide and team up with more partners. Soon, more people may charge up their mobile phones while enjoying their favorite cafés and restaurants. The idea of being cut off from the rest of the world because of a dead battery may even be relegated to the ghost of Christmas past.

Staying connected. Now, that's a gift worth having.



Tired of going from building to building to distribute your resumes? **WE CAN HELP YOU.** **JOB**

SA KANYANG KATATAGAN,
NAGKAROON TAYO NG KINABUKASAN.

Maligayang Rizal Day mula sa Rizal Super cement. Ang eco-friendly na semento.

RIZAL

A quality product of **CEMEX**

ISSN
0116-2642

INQUIRER

Vol. 23 No. 22

Email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Webmaster: www.inquirer.net/opinion

OPINION

Text us your feedback: inquirer.opi@mailcity/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

The Philippine Daily Inquirer, Inc. has its business and editorial offices at:
• Chino Roces Ave. corner Yagor and Mascarido Sts., Makati City
• P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
• Our telephone numbers are 897-8608 connecting all departments
• Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 • Advertising 897-4887
• Circulation 523-5570
• Subscription Hotline 896-6080



Rizal in us

RIZAL DAY FINDS A NATION REMEMBERING RIZAL and engaging in a debate reminiscent of the inner struggle the national hero underwent in his lifetime: the struggle between a pious hope for reform and the faith in peaceful change, on the one hand; and the temptation to throw caution to the wind and to plot and demand revolution, on the other.

The struggle was resolved in Rizal's mind by his decision to reject the revolution option as premature, and to condemn it in a manifesto—an act, however, he carried out consciously as a last homage to his own principles even as he understood that he would be proclaimed a martyr by the revolutionaries and used by them as a symbol. The point and counterpoint of Rizal's life were his manifesto condemning the revolution and his last poem in which he proclaimed himself just another fallen patriot, no different from those shot to death by Spanish rifles in the field of battle. But to Rizal, being used as the symbol of a revolution that was doomed to fail was a small price compared to his being set on a pedestal so future generations would have a chance to study and absorb his dearest principles: the virtues of education, of self-discipline and of self-improvement as a means toward improving society as a whole.

The Philippine Revolution did not lead to independence; it led to the death of Andres Bonifacio and the still-born Republic of Malolos. It would take the overblown rhetoric and scheming of an independence movement, every bit as elitist and suspicious of the masses as the Propaganda movement and Rizal himself, to obtain independence for the Filipinos in 1946. Just as it would take a movement directed from the top, and suspicious of the masses, to reclaim freedom from the dictatorship in 1986. This is not to discount the romantic attractions of a revolution and of the raised fist; but as we have seen time and again, it is peaceful assembly and the dedicated effort to rethink and relearn the values and virtues of decent, democratic government that effectively strip tyranny of its appearance of immovability and make men free.

This means that, now more than ever—though indeed, as always—Rizal's genius has been demonstrated again by what the country is experiencing. The populism (in its crudest form) that elevated Joseph Estrada to the presidency has been exposed as neither a victory for the masses nor a demonstration of democracy at work. Instead, it has been shown as a demonstration of all that Rizal rejected: popularity instead of merit, passion instead of reason, impulsiveness instead of moderation and good judgment. And what people have increasingly come to realize is that democracy and good government, national development and the stability of the body politic must be anchored on both a citizenship and a leadership firmly grounded on moral values and the responsible exercise of rights. For this reason, President Macapagal-Arroyo is tolerated, but not supported by the people.

And yet, it is not enough to just recoil from the excesses of the present administration. It would be wrong to think that the current political crisis calls only for sobriety and belief in reform; but not for the necessary leap of faith and a change in the governors and governance of our country. To think so—that it is enough to just shock the present administration into changing—is to learn only half of what Rizal wanted us to understand. There are times when reason, education and morality call upon citizens to make a stand and sacrifice their lives and treasure for their principles.

It was Rizal, despite opportunities given him to escape, or surrender completely, who stood up for his principles before what everyone considered a kangaroo court. But the bankrupt nature of the system could not have been exposed if it were not demonstrated that the system could so easily condemn an innocent man.

Sane gun bill

ONE MIGHT THINK THAT A GUN BILL WHICH HAD THE SUPPORT of such traditionally opposing groups as the National Rifle Association and the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence would have an easy time winning passage in Congress. But that hasn't been the case for legislation that would make it easier to detect people with documented mental-health problems when they attempt to buy guns.

President Bush should sign the bill without hesitation. It is a logical means to make it more difficult for mentally unstable people to acquire guns, without trampling on the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding Americans.

The Daily Sentinel (Grand Junction, Colorado)

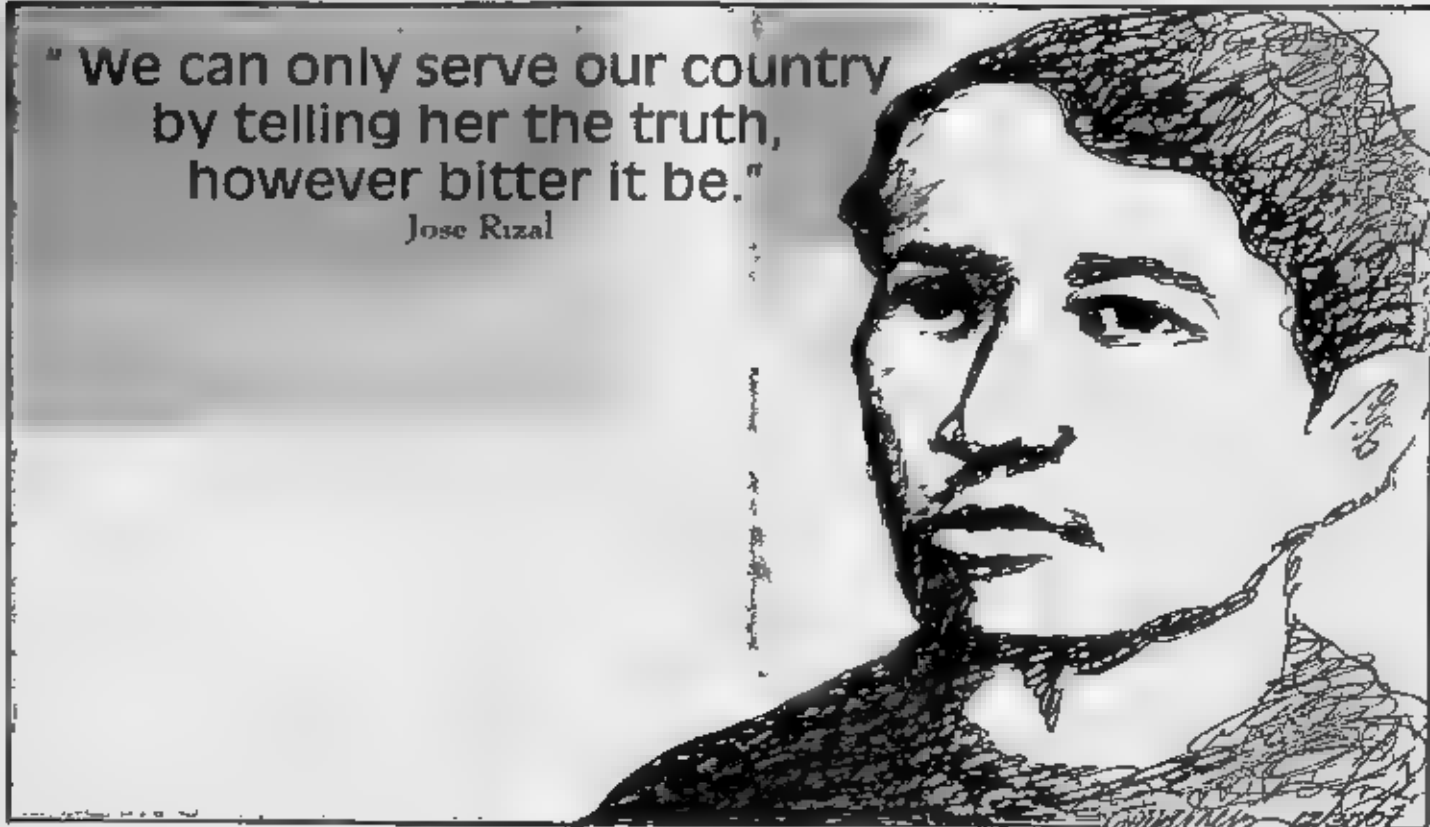
FOREIGN COMMENT

Publisher ISAGANI YAMBOT
Editor in Chief LETTY JIMENEZ-MAGSANOC
Managing Editor JOSE MA. D. NOLASCO
Associate Editor ABELARDO S. ULANDAY
Associate Editor for Readership ROSARIO A. GARCILLANO
Opinion Editor JORGE V. AUSTIA
News Editor ANTONIO T. ENRICA JR. • **Chief, Page One Operations** NILO B. PAURON
Chief, News Day Desk RUBEN G. ALABASTRO
National Editor PIERGENTINO B. BANDONIEL JR.
Senior Desk Editor JUAN Y. SAMPANTO JR.
Editorial Consultants AMANDO DONOHUA
Chief Photographer EMME U. SAMPANTO
Art & Design Director LYNNETT A. VILLARBA
Board Chairman MARCO R. PRETO
President ALEXANDRA PRETO-RODRIGUEZ
Senior Vice President for Sales and Marketing RENATO R. REINOSO
VP for Advertising FELIPE R. CLARTE
AVP for Circulation SANDY SIMON R. YAP
Readers' Advocate LORINA KALAW TRINIA
readersadvocate@inquirer.com.ph • Tel. No. 897-8888, Loc. 342

All rights reserved. Except as permitted by law, no part of this Philippine Daily Inquirer may be reproduced or distributed in any form or by any means stored in a database or retrieval system without the prior written permission.

"We can only serve our country by telling her the truth, however bitter it be."

Jose Rizal



The most precious jewel in the crown of liberty

I END THIS COLUMN FOR 2007 BY ASSERTING a basic constitutional right—the right against censorship. This is an indispensable element of freedom of expression that is recognized and protected—or should be—in all republican regimes.

I have done this several times in this paper and elsewhere, but this is a right that can never be overemphasized or needlessly reiterated. It is a right of which the government should be perpetually reminded lest the people's conformity to its disregard or their neglect in not protesting its abuse encourage the censor in eroding it.

I am doing this again because of the action taken by the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB) in giving three movies an "X" rating and banning them from public exhibition. It says they are "libelous and defamatory to the good name and reputation of the President of the Philippines," have "a tendency to incite rebellion and sedition," "undermine faith and confidence in the government and duly constituted authorities," and are "one-sided" and "black propaganda."

If the members of the Board had been my students in Constitutional Law, they would surely have flunked. If they are lawyers, they have discredited their Alma Mater that should disown them. These presumptuous non-judges would condemn as criminal hostile comments against Ms. Macapagal-Arroyo and her government what we columnists make every day. She herself would tolerate or ignore them but her appointees in the MTRCB are more popish than the Pope.

Either they are uncritically eager to please their benefactor or they are grossly ignorant of their functions. Perhaps both. John Milton declared the impossibility of finding a person base enough to accept the office of censor and at the same time good enough to perform its duties. The members of the MTRCB are guilty on both counts.

THE STORY IS TOLD ABOUT A MAN DRIVING up a steep and narrow mountain road when a woman, driving down from the opposite direction, opened her window and shouted, "Pig!" Thinking that she was calling him names, he immediately leaned out his window and angrily shouted back, "You too!" As the man rounded the next corner, he crashed into a pig in the middle of the road. Lesson? If only men would listen.

In today's Gospel (Mt. 2, 13-15, 19-23) we hear of Joseph, the man who knew how to listen, and who knew how to obey. Upon the instruction of the angel of the Lord, Joseph took Jesus and Mary to Egypt, and later on took them back to the land of Israel. There would be more peace in our lives if only we knew how to really listen to the Lord, and obeyed His instructions.

Today is the Feast of the Holy Family. What makes a family holy? It is the presence of God. What makes a family unholy? It is the absence of God. When God is absent, the vacuum is often filled up with materialism, greed, vices, unfaithfulness, neither of which gives true peace. Is God present in your family? Are the Gospel values a value in your family?

Take a look at your family today. There are three marks of a good family: close to God; close to one another; close to the people. Some families are close to God, but they are not close to one another. Some families are close to God and to one another, but they are not close to the people. And it could happen that some families are close to the people and to one another but they are not close to God. So, how's your family?

Want to hear a beautiful love story? Sometime in March 2004, I had Mass in a mall, and I noticed a good-looking girl who looked such a good girl listening so intently all throughout the Mass. After the Mass, she came over the table where I was signing my books. I looked at

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz



They are unlike the justices of the Supreme Court appointed by President Arroyo who have dared to displease her by declaring some of her acts unconstitutional. Unlike them too, the MTRCB members do not know what they are talking about in spouting their incredible impertinence. The first thing they sorely need is a briefing on freedom of expression.

They should always remember that we live in a democratic state under the Bill of Rights. That immortal charter of liberty guarantees to every person the courage and the dignity to speak up, even against the mighty monarch, let alone a puny president.

Censors are presumptuous persons who believe they are the supreme moral, political, social, and artistic arbiter of the people applying only their own subjective standards in controlling the flow of thought and action. They are nervous pedagogues with their fussy and authoritarian intrusion, like a spinster aunt who warns—but secretly hopes—that there is a man hiding under her bed.

The members of the MTRCB have absolutely no right whatsoever to prohibit criticisms against the "good name and reputation of the President of the Philippines" even assuming the propriety of their questionable adjective. No one has. As for the supposed increment of the movies to sedition or rebellion, and whether they are libelous or not, are matters for the courts, not the Board, to decide. The opinion that the films are "one-sided" and "black propaganda" does not excuse their unilateral suppression, absent a healthy contest

between opposite ideas.

In 1994, their predecessors in the MTRCB refused to permit the public exhibition of the celebrated "Schindler's List" unless certain portions of it were excised. The producer rejected the requirement and considered withdrawing the film altogether. Fortunately, President Fidel Ramos reversed the censors and the people were able to view the movie completely. Contrary to the fears of the Board, nothing untoward happened as a result of their exposure to the scenes it wanted to delete.

The MTRCB was paranoid about the reaction of the Filipino audience to the picture. Like an over-acting disciplinarian, it shielded their eyes from its ugly realities as if they were innocent little children who should see nothing but sweetness and light. The Board did not consider the fact that the people had their own grown-up sense of discernment that, rightly or wrongly, would inform their impressions and decisions.

Freedom of expression forbids previous suppression of ideas except where the government can show a clear and present danger of their circulation. It is the censor who must justify such prohibition, otherwise, the ideas must enjoy full and free dissemination. In the well-ordered society, however, freedom of expression, like most freedoms, is subject to the paramount police power. This means that the thought freely expressed may subsequently be validly punished if made without authority or proof.

When I was on the Court, I hoped for an opportunity to write about—and against—censorship as an obstacle to the free publication and discussion of information affecting the public interest. "Schindler's List" would have been such a subject—and "The Piano" too—but they never reached judicial scrutiny. I would have appreciated the chance to exalt freedom of expression once more—even probably as a dissenter again—as the most precious jewel in the crown of liberty.

Listen and obey

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD



her and asked her, "Do you have a boyfriend?" She blushed, and right away I said: "You know, you look such a good girl, and I have this nephew who is such a good boy, and I wish you two could meet each other!" That's how it all started. Well, to cut the story short, last Dec. 28, 2007, our whole family was in Iloilo where I officiated the wedding of our nephew Jeremy del Rosario and Ivy Espinosa. In my heart, I knew from the very start that God was present in their hearts, and that God will continue to be the center of their relationship and love. One with you Jeremy and Ivy!

On the plane to Iloilo, a young lady seated beside me said: "Excuse me sir. Why are you holding the rosary? Are you nervous?"

I explained to her that I was not nervous, and that it was a habit of mine to clutch the rosary when I travel. That started my conversation with Katrina, a 24-year-old balik-bayan who was back for a vacation in Iloilo after 14 years in the United States. She was so happy to come home. I found out in our conversation that she has not forgotten the Christian values her parents taught her. I was happy to know that she continues to value prayer, clean living and charity. It all boils down to what parents teach the children. No amount of pressure from the outside can destroy the heart and the home that have God as their guide.

Katrina mentioned that she would never exchange the "Philippine Christmas" for anything. She said that there's something in the way we celebrate Christmas here that we

should not lose even in the face of materialism which is beginning to set in. She said one value we must uphold, especially at Christmas, is the family. Another is joy, in spite of deprivations. She also mentioned the spirit of giving. Finally, she mentioned hope, saying that indeed we will survive as a people and as a nation. Yes, we need to listen to people coming from outside our country to tell us that we are not doing too bad after all.

A timely message for all of us, as the old year comes to an end, and a new year is about to begin: "Do not look back in anger; do not look forward in fear; look around in anticipation and love."

Another beautiful message we all should say: "To those I have wronged, I ask for forgiveness. To those I may have helped, I wish I did more; to those who have helped me, I want to say thanks!"

A Christmas moment happened when we were eating breakfast on Christmas Day at our community dining room. An old woman had just walked in and said: "I'm so hungry. May I come in and eat?" We at the table were stunned for a moment because the dining room was off-limits to "outsiders" and there were rules in the house that had to be kept. After recovering from our initial shock and dilemma, the silence was broken when one by one we stood up, gave her a plate, gave her a glass of water, a cup of coffee and just welcomed her. Yes, the Lord visited us that Christmas morning and reminded us that our loving must be concrete, and that our service must not be stifled by rules and regulations. Wishing you all a life of love free from fear and distinctions. Happy New Year!!!

A moment with the Lord.
Lord, help me not to stop listening and not to stop obeying. Amen

Philippine philanthropy

WITH DUE RESPECT

Artemio V. Panganiban



GLOBALIZATION, DEREGULATION AND PRIVATIZATION have altered not just the economy of nations, but also much of everything else in the world. Tariffs, quotas and trade preferences are being eroded. So are employment, travel, communications and investment barriers. Call centers, overseas employment, Internet access and cell phones have been globalized.

Mega shift to philanthropy. Political and economic power is gradually shifting from the government to the private sector. No longer are governments solely responsible for granting relief from poverty, disease, homelessness, and yes, global warming. With mind-boggling corporate profits comes the corresponding duty to alleviate these scourges of mankind.

The passion for civic duty of the world's richest couple best demonstrates this "mega-shift" in social responsibility. Bill and Melinda Gates, assisted by rock star Bono, built the world's largest charity with their endowment of \$29 billion (repeat, billion dollars) to save lives, especially in Africa, through vaccinations and public health care.

A year and a half ago, billionaire Warren Buffett gave a staggering \$30 billion in blue chip Berkshire Hathaway shares to augment the couple's charities. This sum is roughly equivalent to about P1.3 trillion, larger than the entire budget of the Philippines. Bill Gates will soon retire as chair of Microsoft: "to focus more on philanthropic work."

Philippine response. In our country, the private sector's effort to help the less fortunate was pioneered by the Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP), now chaired by Manuel V. Pangilinan who also heads the most profitable enterprise here, the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Company. PBSP members contribute a fixed percentage of their net income to a common fund to pursue humanitarian causes.

The hands-down favorite of Filipino philanthropists is education, and rightly so, because—as I wrote last week in this space—it is the most important source of the "inexhaustible wealth of nations." Ear-

ly on, the Eugenio Lopez Foundation and Ayala Corporation endowed and gave birth to the Asian Institute of Management. The Lopez-controlled Meralco donated the land for the Ateneo Law School in Rockwell and the Ateneo College of Medicine at the power company's compound in Pasig.

The taipans acquired schools to help them dispense quality education at the least cost. Thus, Ligo Tan took over the University of the East; Alfonso Yuchengco, the Mapua Institute of Technology; and Emilio Yap, the Centro Escolar University. Henry Sy's SM Foundation set up the Asia Pacific College, maintains 500 scholars at any given time, and donates classrooms to public schools. While focused on community development, San Miguel Foundation nonetheless sponsors scholarship, school-building and teacher-training programs.

George S. K. Ty's Metrobank Foundation established the Manila Doctors College and the MDC College of Nursing. It elevates educational standards through its annual "Search for Outstanding Teachers." As chair of the board of judges of the 1998 search, I marveled at the enormous attention given this contest. For instance, the top officials of Metrobank listened patiently for three days when the judges were interviewing the finalists. To cultivate a culture of excellence, Metrobank also searches for outstanding policemen, soldiers, young painters, sculptors, and other artists.

On his 80th birthday last year, John Gokongwei donated half of his personal holdings (amounting at that time to P10.25 billion) to the Gokongwei Brothers Foundation that, in turn, gave hundreds of millions of pesos to the Univer-

sity of San Carlos and the Ateneo de Manila.

Medical and other services. Another favorite charity of local bigwigs is medical service. Long ago, Metrobank endowed the Manila Doctors Hospital to help elevate the latter's medical standards. Robert Kuan sold his "Chow King" empire to Jollibee to concentrate on his chairmanship of St. Luke's Hospital.

Recently, Metro Pacific Investment Corp. infused money and management expertise into Makati Medical Center and turned it around financially in one year. SM Foundation owns mobile clinics, wellness centers, and hospice units. It also refurbishes entire wards of government hospitals and converts them to "Solidarity Sy Wards." The Tan Yan Kee Foundation has donated hundreds of millions of pesos to build hospitals, school buildings, churches and houses for the homeless; and to finance scholarships and train teachers and doctors.

Ayala Corp. has infused social responsibility into its core enterprises and management philosophy. It has expanded its reach—from serving mostly the affluent communities to tending the needs of the low-income groups. For example, by venturing into water distribution, it extended service even to informal settlers who, prior to Ayala's take-over of Manila Water Company, were not entitled to water connection.

Beyond that, Ayala has a passion for youth leadership. Annually, it selects 75 of the country's most outstanding campus leaders, and gathers them in the three-day all-expenses-paid Ayala Young Leaders' Congress "to hone their leadership potential and to inspire them to lead lives of integrity and work for the good of the country."

So too, the big media players have allocated part of their resources to social amelioration. Notable among them are the Kapuso Foundation of GMA7, Bantay Bata of ABS-CBN and Newsboy Foundation of the Inquirer.

Comments are welcome at chiefjusticepanganiban@hotmail.com

Supersonic

I AM TOLD THIS IS A DAY FOR WHIMSY, FOR WORDS laced with vodka and dewdrops, for sentences that meander over silences and echo with the rushing sound of exploding firecrackers. I am told—although I am not certain who did the telling—that today, tomorrow, the day after, are days when there is no need for any grand pronouncements or exhortations of action, none of the rigorous academic analysis people seem to expect from opinion writers that I cannot claim to provide.

At midnight in two days, there will be another beginning, while the old year curls up in the battered file cabinets of newspaper offices. On that night, the sky will rip with furious color, copper oxide and calcium carbonate and magnesium streaking through the dark in blue and red and sparkling orange. There will be shouting and howling, a booming barrage of sound to welcome a new year. In Rio de Janeiro, more than a million will gather on the Copacabana beach to witness the world's largest fireworks display. In Manila, the unfortunate reporters on duty will camp out in emergency rooms, readying the post-New Year countdown of the dead and the injured. This year, a 5-year-old boy with an amputated arm is the government poster boy against the use of dangerous fireworks. In spite of his story, and those of many others, the Department of Health reports 103 cases of fireworks-related injuries over the Christmas season. There will be more on the 31st.

I've stopped wondering why this is tradition, this explosive challenge to silence at the beginning of each year. It is silence, after all, that we spend the entire year challenging, what we fill with soap operas and rock music and long, gossiping conversations. Reynold Price once defined storytelling as the opposite of silence. "Millions survive without love or home," he wrote, "almost none in silence, the opposite of silence leads quickly to narrative, and the sound of story is the dominant sound of our lives."

I am afraid of silence. Not just the deafening sort that is whirling fan or a voice on the radio can eject. There is another kind of silence that comes at the most commonplace of times: when washing dishes, taking a shower, scrubbing the floor—mechanical tasks that leave the mind alone to cringe over old sins and what-might-have-been's, as well as the missing commas in old published columns. So I take a romance novel to the shower, read the paper while sloshing soap water on my floor, and let Aladdin sing of a whole new world while I scrub the rice cooker. I do not like to be alone; I do not like the quiet.

It is, I think the reason I am a writer—both to impose my voice, and to find out what the thousand other voices are saying. It is that fascination with the story—and the rejection of silence—that has so many shoving on earphones in MRTs, and what has made a Karaoke mike a possession more valuable than heirloom jewelry. So I will meander my way to my point: on how we need the sound of stories, how stories are our challenge to silence, how our ability to tell them, control them, remember them and deconstruct them is a power and a vital need that set us apart as humans. Silence in itself is eerie, so often described as pregnant, uncomfortable, forbidding, even deafening. It is lonely.

John Steinbeck once said that the human is a lonesome animal. "We spend all of our life trying to be less lonesome," he says. To tell the story is to beg the listener to say we are not alone, that there is someone else who thinks the same way, has felt the same way, has laughed the same way, and more importantly, has survived the same way. No matter how poor, how desperately impoverished the Filipino is, we're a happy people. Polls show that Pinoys see more hope in 2008. We are, after all, a nation of storytellers. Marimar and Sergio and Lastikman are as much of the Pinoys' daily life as is the constant struggle to survive. I like to think the storyteller's ability is a weapon, to change minds, to soften hearts, to awaken those who sleep.

You can tell more about people by what stories they read and what songs they sing than what their resumés say. The Celts, long, long ago, allowed only the poets to perform the role of teachers. Australia's bushmen believed that the story was a people's most prized possession—that it was what made a people into a nation.

The story isn't one with a beginning and a middle and an end, it is a beginning that keeps beginning, one that doesn't always rhyme or make sense, but is as real as the laborer's lump of cold rice on a tin plate.

So here's to a new year—the beginning of a new story, the beginning of other beginnings, to sound, to fury, and to the struggle against the quietly dying light.

For comments e-mail rebel.inquirer@gmail.com

THEY SAID

Incidental

"My support for [President Macapagal-Arroyo] is only so incidental and secondary to my protection and enhancement of the national interest."
—Former President Fidel V. Ramos, saying the Philippines has "no better options" for president

Authorized

"We want to assure you that the chain of command of the Armed Forces is intact and all the [troop] movements that are happening are authorized... but we encourage everyone that whenever you see troops, please report to us."
—Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon, after the failed power grab at the Peninsula Manila in Makati City

Exception

"You only house death convicts and sentenced inmates at the [New Bilibid Prisons]. Whatever law Trillanes and his co-accused may have violated, they are still awaiting trial. Why create an exception out of this case, which the government has been trumpeting as victoriously quelled?"
—Sen. Francis Escudero on the plan of government prosecutors to move Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV and other participants in the Peninsula Manila siege to the State penitentiary

The INQUIRER is a member of the
PHILIPPINE PRESS INSTITUTE
The National Association of Philippine Newspapers



Families in transition

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David



FAMILY LIFE, IN ALL ITS COMPLICATIONS AND absurdities, is what "SSS," or "Sakal, Sakali, Sakalolo," is all about. The movie takes up where its predecessor "Kasal, Kasali, Kasalo" leaves off, though a few years have passed since the birth of the problematic couple's child.

Where before the birth of their son signaled their reconciliation and re-commitment to their marriage, the boy is now proving to be a new source of conflict for the couple portrayed by Judy Ann Santos and Ryan Agoncillo. The child becomes the focus for all the differences between not just husband and wife, but their respective sets of parents, their upbringing, values, and styles of parenting.

It is a film set firmly in the Filipino middle-class milieu, though writer-director Jose Javier Reyes attempts to mine the full comic potentials of the clash between rural and urban sensibilities, as well as between generational views on child rearing. But its main draw is the character of Judy Ann, who is a young woman breaking free from traditional shackles, unafraid to speak her mind (and does so in Reyes' trademark witty repartee), and unwilling to be anybody's patsy, even her husband's.

If there is one objection to raise against the movie, it is that everyone in it is so clever and quick with a barbed response. It has its touching moments, though, as when Judy Ann and her mother, played with endearing feistiness by Gma Pareño, realize that despite their conflicts they are essentially made of the same stuff; or when Ryan tells off his mother (Gloria Diaz) that the best way he knows how to be a good son is to be a good husband and father.

Though still replete with stereotypes of meddling in-laws and yayas from the Visayas, the movie dares to challenge gender stereotypes, mainly in the person of the young wife and mother standing her ground in the shifting sands of social roles and expectations.

ALSO about family and family values is the movie "Bahay Kubo," described in its promotional materials as "A Pinoy Mano Po." But the family in this film is not so much dysfunctional as it is unusual. Maricel Soriano, the central fig-

ure in the movie, is the adopted daughter of Gloria Romero, and so adoption comes naturally (and sequentially) to her. Though she and her husband (played by Eric Quizon) do have a natural child of their own, they end up with a family of seven. Throw into this mix Maricel's best friend, in the person of Eugene Domingo, and you have a situation rife with comic confusion.

From their idyllic home by the river, the "bahay kubo" of the title, the family is suddenly transported to Manila when Eric makes a pile of money. But the film ignores the potential clash between provincial and city values and focuses instead on the inner conflicts and turmoil within the family, conflicts that come to a head when they meet with a sudden, shocking financial setback.

And then from comedy, the movie makes an abrupt shift to drama—to melodrama, in fact. So often do tragedies and setbacks afflict Maricel that even as one sheds tears, one is also tempted to burst out laughing, so absurd has her run of bad luck become.

The movie has many things to say about the nature of family and parenting, of relationships between siblings, of love and devotion. But it does so in such a heavy-handed manner, the moviegoer ends up feeling manipulated. A lighter touch would have been welcome.

It is easy enough to dismiss "Desperadas" as so much froth and frillery. But even as director Joel Lamangan chose to take the over-serious route in "Bahay Kubo," he chose to mask serious gender issues in a comedy with sexual overtones in "Desperadas."

The questions and challenges arise from the

women themselves and the circumstances of their births: born to four different fathers and to a mother who dared challenge social conventions. The mother (Nova Villa in a cameo role) is absent for much of the movie, but it is she who narrates her daughters' stories and who explains why they are the way they are.

Originally conceived as a local take-off on "Desperate Housewives," "Desperadas" owes more to "Sex and the City" than the black satire about American suburban housewives. The four half-sisters, on the surface, lead perfect, accomplished lives. Ruffa Mae Quinto plays a sex therapist and popular author whose husband hides a dirty little secret. Iza Calzado is a lawyer chafing within an empty marriage to an unresponsive and busy doctor. Ruffa Gutierrez is a single parent who thinks happiness lies in having the most expensive luxury goods. While Marian Rivera is an underwear designer whose sexuality must be tempered because her fiancé has turned "born again."

The four women's stories intersect and entwine, creating endless complications and giving them plenty of opportunities to work out their relationships. Sure, the stars' outfits, jewelry, autos, and even boyfriends, dazzle. But beneath the gloss is a portrait of a society where women are undergoing transitions and questioning traditions.

THE OTHER MMFF (Metro Manila Film Festival) entries either hew to expectations previously set by their franchisees, as in "Enteng Kabisote" and "Shake, Rattle and Roll," or live up (or down) to expectations, as in "Anak ng Kumander."

I had high hopes for "Banal," considering that it was (partly) written and directed by Cesar Apolinario, a TV news reporter. It promised, at least, a more realistic take on the crime-and-action genre. But despite some obvious attempts at realism, "Banal" is caught firmly in the formula of the boot-camp buddy/action flick. Apolinario's inexperience also shows in his handling of his actors, who are all competent actors, especially Christopher de Leon, but who can get carried away without a dose of directorial discipline.

Pakistan after Bhutto

WORLD VIEW

Arif Rafiq

the Pakistani masses and Musharraf's regime

The nightmare scenario envisioned by many in Pakistan—a nuclear-armed country actively targeted by al-Qaida and the Taliban—could become a reality. But this need not be a foregone conclusion.

Musharraf, who regularly claims to act on the basis of a "Pakistan first" policy, must now let go of partisan objectives and form a national unity government led by a prime minister from the opposition. Any subsequent measures, including temporary imposition of emergency rule and full-scale war against the terrorists, require the complete support of the opposition parties. Musharraf and his political allies cannot be seen as benefiting from Bhutto's assassination; nor can they afford the perception of a cover-up. His opponents must be incorporated into the decision-making process.

A national unity government must assume three major responsibilities. First, it must establish an independent commission to determine who was responsible for Bhutto's murder. While political assassination is not unfamiliar—Pakistan's first prime minister was killed in the same park where Bhutto was murdered—it is imperative that the culprits be apprehended and tried. Anything short of this would permanently taint Pakistan's leadership and impede all attempts at political reconciliation.

Second, it must take necessary measures to ensure public safety and political stability, while paving the way for free and fair elections. It must

offer Pakistan a consensual path toward winning back its tribal areas from the insurgents, end the wave of terror in its cities, and ensure the election of a new, legitimate government.

Finally, it must begin a dialogue with Musharraf and the military on a permanent, constitutional separation of powers. If Bhutto had not been assassinated and, instead, successfully became prime minister, she would likely have clashed with Musharraf over his arbitrary empowerment of the presidency at the expense of the premier's death. The issue will not go away with Bhutto's death.

Pakistan's civil and military elite must create a broad consensus—perhaps with foreign assistance, but never with foreign meddling—on the constitutional roles of the prime minister, president and the military. Ravaged by endemic elite discord since its founding, Pakistan desperately needs an elite reconciliation that includes all of the country's major stakeholders. Otherwise, Pakistan's terrorists, who feed on political instability, will continue to gain, while the country's poor and illiterate majority will continue to lose ground.

The murder of Benazir Bhutto need not result in the country's demise. Pakistan's elite have an opportunity to overcome their differences, unite in opposition to militants, and transform their failing state into a stable and prosperous democracy.

If they succeed in bringing about a national renewal, Bhutto, a monumental political figure in Pakistani history, will not have died in vain.

Project Syndicate

Arif Rafiq, a policy and communications consultant, edits the Pakistan Policy Blog (www.pakistan-policy.com).

TALK of the TOWN

Please send feedback to
jsarmiento@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

MANILA PEN SIEGE

Media's role in conflict situations

SOME 50 MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA, INCLUDING TWO INQUIRER REPORTERS, were humiliated by the police for doing their job—informing the public about the revolt led by Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV and Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim in Makati City on Nov. 29.

After the police subdued the revolt at the Manila Peninsula hotel, broadcast and print journalists were rounded up at gunpoint, handcuffed and herded like cattle to Camp Bagong Diwa in Taguig City.

The authorities were incensed that the journalists did not heed the order to vacate the hotel. Had the journalists heeded the order, the public would not have known what

was happening inside the hotel. Foul deeds are often committed far from the prying eyes of the media.

Surely, police and military officials knew who the bona fide members of the media were. Many of them covered at one time or another the Philippine National Police, the Department of Interior and Local Government, the Department of National Defense, and Malacañang.

The authorities also knew the police and military intelligence agents who passed themselves off as journalists during the siege. Understandably, the police did not touch these agents.

By Maria A. Ressa

ON NOV. 29, MORE THAN 30 journalists were arrested, handcuffed and transported to Camp Bagong Diwa in Bicutan.

Twelve of the journalists were from ABS-CBN, detained as "witnesses and suspects," according to the police. Others were told they would be released as soon as their identities were verified.

Our head of news gathering, Chane Villa, went immediately to the Peninsula hotel to identify our people; yet, she was told they would still have to be arrested and brought to Bicutan. We believe this move sets a dangerous precedent and erodes our nation's democracy.

There are two points I'd like to make about the role of media in conflict situations like the Peninsula siege. First, our democracy rests on the principle that the people have a right to know. Section 7, Article III of the 1987 Philippine Constitution recognizes "the right of the people to information on matters of public concern."

Law enforcement and government officials must be accountable to the public, and our history has shown there is no better means to do that during crisis situations than live television coverage.

Times of uncertainty

In a 2004 national survey by ABS-CBN, over 90 percent of adult Filipinos said that during any major event, they looked for news, with 87 percent turning to TV to make sure they were informed. After the 2007 elections, that increased, hitting 92 percent in Metro Manila, according to Pulse Asia.

The clamor for information increases during times of uncertainty, highlighted during nearly a dozen coup attempts and withdrawals of support in the last two decades: In 1986 and 2001, military moves turned into successful people power revolts; while failed attempts were televised during Edsa Tres, the Oakwood mutiny and the Peninsula siege.

Since these three failed, it obviously doesn't follow that television coverage automatically means success. During all these, 1986 excluded, ABS-CBN reported in a similar and consistent fashion, spurred on by the public's right to know. In performing our duty, we accepted the risks, including overturned and burned vehicles and the mauling of reporters (not by the police but by a sector of the public we serve).

Need to be informed

While the State has the right to protect itself, the public has the right to know—and as we have seen, the Filipino has always made a choice. Focus group discussions conducted by ABS-CBN between Dec. 3 and Dec. 5 reflect that. The participants expressed an overwhelming sentiment that they wanted to be kept informed, saying live television coverage should continue.

We believe this is critical because an uninformed public makes any democracy unstable. It is in this light that media should be considered partners in promoting democracy rather than the other way around.

It is important that the public has the information it needs to make an informed decision because that is the foundation of our democracy. Yet, by arresting our journalists, authorities effectively shut down ANC's live cov-



MEMBERS of the media are led onto a bus at the Manila Peninsula hotel in Makati with their hands cuffed.

RAFFY LEONIA

erage of the post-siege situation at the Peninsula hotel.

Censorship

They tried to confiscate videotapes and equipment from reporters, photographers and cameramen. The police violated their own definition of the "crime scene" by approaching our transmission facilities outside the Peninsula to try to confiscate our videotapes and stop our coverage. This is effectively censorship—at a time when the conflict had all but been resolved. To date, they still have at least one videotape and two radios owned by ABS-CBN.

The second point, which has clear ramifications for the future, is the role journalists play in conflict situations like Edsa, Oakwood and the Peninsula.

On Dec. 5, Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno called the Peninsula a "crime scene" and said that journalists violated two laws during the siege. He cited Article 151 of the Revised Penal Code, which has to do with "resistance and disobedience of persons in authority" and Presidential Decree No. 1821 for "obstruction of justice."

Chilling effect

These statements have far-reaching consequences because now every journalist reporting on a conflict situation has to worry that he or she may be arrested and charged. Beyond that, if the journalist can be charged so can news organizations. This is no longer a threat but a reality and creates a "chilling effect" for working journalists, who can now be charged like common criminals.

Yet, we believe that the law covering the presence of journalists in conflict situations is very clear and supercedes any legislation cited by the interior secretary. Section 4, Article III of the 1987 Philippine Constitution states that "no law shall be passed abridging the freedom of speech, of expression, or of the press."

"Was there an arrest? Yes," said Puno. "Were they charged? No. Why was there an apology? Be-

cause all of us feel bad about the way the incident materialized. We are unhappy that our friends in media had to suffer inconvenience."

Trivialized

In one move, the government trivialized and dismissed a violation of the Constitution as an "inconvenience."

While we understand the position of the Philippine National Police (PNP), by its own admission, it is using "SOPs" created in 2006. PNP Memorandum Circular No. 2006-09-01 tells the police what to do with perpetrators, hostages and witnesses.

It has no provisions for journalists, who are part of the landscape in conflict situations. This may be the first time these rules were used. It is also the first time that the PNP has been the lead agency in a political conflict situation, which is how many journalists would characterize the event, not just a "crime scene" complete with overtones of bank robberies and murder.

Every other coup attempt or passive withdrawals of support in the past 21 years were handled by the Department of National Defense. Perhaps this is part of the reason why the rules were changed in the Peninsula siege.

Hold the line

We journalists are by no means perfect. Some of us can be arrogant at times and that is how we have been portrayed by the police in this instance. But the reason we need to hold the line is simply because if we give in, we would have contributed to weakening our democracy by depriving the public of the information it wants and needs.

Having reported from numerous combat zones in Southeast



OZMM radio reporter Noel Alamar. RAFFY LEONIA

Asia and around the world, I am very aware of the risks we face as journalists. In Indonesia, I barely survived a crossfire between government troops and protesters.

In Aceh, my team and I were detained but that's to be expected given the authoritarian regime then. In East Timor, Pakistan, India and China, despite the dangers and restrictions, you calculate the risks and always make sure the odds are high that you will survive to tell the story.

Ludicrous

What I have learned from experience is that every situation is different, and what you do depends on the system of government, i.e., you would not make the same decision under a democracy that you would under a dictatorship.

Every journalist's and news organization's assessment of risk varies. That is why I find it slightly ludicrous for the PNP to quote the ethics manuals of the CBC, BBC and ABS-CBN to bolster its point that all journalists should have left when requested—that there is a one-size-fits-all response.

All these codes provide guidance—the philosophy of the organization—but in the end, the judgement call and the decision to stay or to go rest with the journalist. We balance the fear for personal safety with the duty to report the truth.

Masquerading as journalist

The police claim we were being used because they said some Magdalo soldiers changed clothes and put on press passes. Everyone tries to use us, including the police and military intelligence agents who were pretending to be journalists. During the crisis, we did not report that because we did not want to compromise their work, but their presence increased the danger for us. Those agents could have easily told their superiors who were the real journalists and who were only masquerading as members of the media.

We categorically state that at no instance did any journalist "obstruct justice" at the Peninsula. Mere presence and reporting the news are not obstruction of justice. Recordings made by the police of our live coverage are now being used by authorities as evidence against those it charged in court.

PNP got news from media

The police even acknowledged that there was a failure of communication within their organization. They mobilized only after they were "informed" of the event through TV and radio coverage. It is clear the police benefited from us doing our job. We cannot be both obstructing and helping justice simultaneously.

Our fear is that the arrests of journalists may herald more dangerous times ahead. In recent years, many developments have eroded press freedom in our country. In 2003, there were more journalists killed in the Philippines than in Iraq, and today—despite pressure from the international community—the extrajudicial killings of journalists and leftist leaders continue with virtual impunity.

Intimidation tactics, indirect pressure and libel suits have been used to attempt to control journalists. In 2006, Proclama-

tion No. 1017 severely curtailed press freedom after authorities threatened to shut down news organizations and stationed tanks outside TV networks.

Last year, Freedom House, an international group, which conducts an annual survey of political rights and civil liberties, downgraded its rating of the Philippines from free to partly free.

Insult

Given this context, the arrests of journalists is extremely alarming, especially since it has now been elevated as policy by Puno, who warns journalists that the police would do it again. To add insult to injury, after authorities apologized for the arrests, they began to publicly question the motives of our journalists.

Officials maligned us by implying we were working with Trillanes' group despite the absolute lack of evidence for these statements. Now, they say they will look at the franchises of television networks. All this only points out that the attempts to intimidate and harass journalists continue.

While it is inconvenient for law enforcement officials to have to contend with media in conflict zones, it is a necessity guaranteed by the Constitution and a check and balance of a vibrant democracy.

On Nov. 29, the journalists who chose to stay and report on the Peninsula siege displayed tremendous courage and risked their safety for the public they serve. A colleague from the Foreign Correspondents' Association of the Philippines captured the spirit of our thoughts: "If someone else can deliver the truth better, we would give way. If we chose to leave at the request of the PNP, then we would have to swallow the PNP version of the truth because we chose to give up the access we already had."

That would be a disservice to the public we all serve.

(Maria A. Ressa is the head of ABS-CBN News & Current Affairs Division. This article is the position paper she read at the hearing of the Senate committee on justice and human rights on Dec. 13.)

Charter change eyed to revive peace talks

Dureza: Amending Constitution one way of giving Moros what they want

By Christine O. Avendaño

THE GOVERNMENT MAY HAVE TO resort to Charter change next year to get the stalled peace talks with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) restarted.

Presidential peace adviser Jesus Dureza said yesterday one of the proposals the government was looking at to get the peace talks moving again was the setting up of a Bangsamoro federal state in Mindanao.

This would require amending the Constitution, Dureza said.

"My recommendation is to amend the Constitution only for the purpose of installing a Bangsamoro state or a Bangsamoro region or whatever name

it will be called," he said in a phone interview.

Dureza made it clear, however, that the idea was not to place the entire country under a federal system of government.

Additional territories

"We already have the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao as a starting point for this proposal," he said, noting that aside from the ARMM, the "additional territories" that were agreed upon in the consensus points between the government and the MILF would probably make up the Bangsamoro federal state.

He said that "hopefully" the government could make the amendment to the Constitution next year.

Dureza said this was one of the proposals the government peace panel was "working on" and which may be taken up at the next Cabinet security cluster meeting in January.

President Macapagal-Arroyo was set to meet with the Cabinet security cluster the other day but this was canceled due to time constraints, Dureza said.

He said the setting up of a federal state in the South was being looked at because the peace negotiations between the government and the MILF continued to be hampered by issues involving the Constitution.

The current impasse occurred after the MILF pulled out of the exploratory talks in Malaysia in mid-December, where both sides were supposed to fi-

nally firm up an agreement on the boundaries of a Moro homeland.

The MILF left the talks after it objected to the inclusion of the phrase "constitutional process" as the mode for implementing the draft memorandum of agreement on territorial boundaries.

New formula

The MILF saw this as a sign the entire Bangsamoro juridical entity would be subjected to a plebiscite.

Explaining the government side, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita had said the government "cannot compromise our reference to the Constitution," in firming up an agreement with the MILF.

Ermita, however, expressed opti-

mism 2008 would be a "good year" for the peace process as he disclosed that the government peace panel was working on a new formula to bring the MILF back to the peace table.

On Friday, Dureza acknowledged the two sides had been "locked in" by Constitutional issues on the ancestral domain aspect.

"We have to grapple with it realistically because we cannot commit to concessions without considering constitutional issues," he said in a phone interview.

"We took special note of the suggestion of Sen. Aquilino Pimentel on the setting up of a federal state," he said.

A federal state is something many people in Mindanao have long aspired for, Dureza said.



NO WAY TO ENTER A BUS

Passengers scramble through the windows of a bus in a Pasay City terminal, the better to grab a seat never mind if there was a fine at the bus door. City dwellers are in a rush to get to the provinces to spend the long New Year holiday with loved ones.

DAVID LERMA

Makati Med doc belies pyramid scam charge

By Leila B. Salaverría

A DOCTOR CONNECTED WITH THE Makati Medical Center has contested a Department of Justice resolution recommending her prosecution for large-scale estafa, saying her corporation could not have been a pyramiding scheme given that it flourished for 10 years.

In seeking to dismiss the criminal complaint against her, cardiologist Emelyn Abundo-Rivera also said that if First Domain Lending Corp. (FDLC), of which she was president, had been a pyramiding operation, it was strange there was only one complaint against her.

The DOJ earlier ordered the filing of large-scale estafa charges against Rivera, pediatrician Shirley Pascual-Ong, Aurora Almojuela, Gilbert Ocampo and three persons identified only as John, Julie and Jenny Doe.

The complainant in the case before the DOJ was Jesus Rivera, the respondent's own father-in-law.

Large returns

Jesus said he was promised large returns for his investment in FDLC. He said that as of January 2007, his investment amounted to P28.69 million, but his requests for the return of his money went unheeded.

In her motion for reconsideration, Emelyn Rivera said pyramiding schemes only lasted several months, whereas FDLC operated for 10 years, or since 1997.

She said the charge of large-scale estafa was questionable because there was only one complainant against her, and this was her father-in-law. She said it was unlikely she would deceive a family member.

"Strangely, the lone complainant Jesus Rivera is the father-in-law of respondent Dr.

Emelyn Rivera. Because of complainant's close relation by affinity to herein respondent, it is highly unbelievable and contrary to human experience that he would be a victim of the corporation or deceived by herein respondent," her motion read.

Rivera maintained she did not defraud her father-in-law and pointed out that he himself had admitted to regularly receiving checks from the corporation representing the interest his investment had earned, and which he deposited in his bank account.

Unreasonable delay

"In the case at bar, the absence of fraud or deceit was all the more strengthened when complainant Jesus Rivera admitted ... that his transaction(s) with FDLC were covered by promissory notes and checks issued to him by herein respondent in payment of interest. As such, the issuance of the promissory notes and checks were in payment of a pre-existing obligation," she said.

She also noted that Jesus had been an investor in FDLC since 1997 but only filed the complaint against her this year.

"Such unreasonable delay in the filing of the complaint cast serious doubt on the veracity and truthfulness of the complaint," she said.

She said FDLC was registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission to engage in lending investments and had P1 million in capital.

In recommending the charges against Rivera and the other respondents, state prosecutor Diosdado Sordani said they failed to show evidence to overturn Jesus' allegation, which he backed with checks and promissory notes.

He also dismissed their claim that FDLC was just a failed business venture, and likened it to a scam or a pyramiding scheme.

HEAD START ON DEPED

US agency brings cyber education to RP schools

By Jerry E. Esplanada

A US GOVERNMENT AID AGENCY has achieved what the Department of Education has yet to accomplish—set up a cyber education program network in the country.

For over a year now, the United States Assistance for International Development (USAID) has been putting up its Gem-2 project, a computer literacy and satellite Internet connection program aimed at improving the quality of education in public high schools in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) and other war-torn areas in the Southern Philippines.

Gem-2, short for Growth with Equity in Mindanao (Phase 2), provides Internet access, computers and information and communications technology equipment supplies, among other services.

"Basically, it is cyber education. During school hours, it provides satellite-linked Internet services to students and teachers. In some areas, the school automatically becomes an Internet café for local folk when classes are over," said Horacio Yalung, chair of TNR Telecoms Inc., the project's telecommunications arm.

To date, USAID has put up Internet services in more than 200 schools in Mindanao, according to Yalung.

Other Gem-2 education development activities include English language instruction and vocational education intervention programs, as well as enhancing the planning and budget skills of the DepEd-ARMM office.

\$1-million project

With an allocation of more than \$1 million (P41,500,000), the Gem-2 project expects to cover at least 300 schools, mainly in the ARMM, according to the USAID office in Manila.

The Gem-2 program began in 2002. It continues the work carried out under the original Gem project which operated from 1996 to 2002.

The Loula Berger Group, an

American firm, is overseeing the installation of the Gem-2 network. It has local offices in the cities of Davao, Cotabato and Zamboanga.

It had earlier contracted We are IT (WIT), a local firm, to install the Gem-2 equipment in project-covered schools.

Satellite broadband

Armed with a 1965 congressional franchise to provide wireless telecommunication services to the public through satellite and terrestrial networks, TNR Telecoms is providing WIT with satellite services and project-related equipment.

Last year, TNR Telecoms joined forces with the Thai firm Shin Satellite Public Company Limited (Satel), operator of the Iptar satellite broadband system.

Iptar's local hub is located near Clark Air Base in Angeles City.

Aside from Thailand and the Philippines, Iptar is also providing full broadband satellite services in Australia, Zealand, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Vietnam and China.

Although not formally part of the USAID's Education Quality and Access for Learning and Livelihood Skills or EQUALLS project, "the education activities of the Gem-2 program are closely coordinated with EQUALLS," said USAID project management specialist Alvan Leo Amal.

Cheaper Internet access

TNR Telecoms and WIT "have been installing the USAID cyber education systems in Mindanao schools since December 2006," disclosed Yalung.

State-run high schools in the towns of Paumbang, Lebak, Kulaman and Bagumbayan, all in Sultan Kudarat, were among the first recipients of the high-tech project.

"There's more good news. The (USAID-funded) system is cheaper than the China-funded and -modeled cyber education project (CEP) of the government. Our equipment cost only P150,000 per school. The DepEd's CEP would cost at least

P400,000 per school," Yalung pointed out.

Gem-2's Internet service charge also costs less—only P5,000 a month compared to the DepEd program's service fee of around P45,000.

Interactive

Yalung noted "the Gem-2 model is also interactive. The DepEd's China-funded CEP is a one-way learning system like Knowledge TV."

The DepEd's CEP supposedly aims to bridge the learning gap between rural and urban schools by using satellite technology to beam televised lectures by the department's master teachers to schools in far-flung areas nationwide.

Nearly 38,000 schools or 90 percent of all public schools nationwide are expected to be connected by the government in the next three years.

The first phase of the project will cover some 3,000 elementary schools in 4th- to 6th-class municipalities, including those hard-hit by recent typhoons like the Bicol region, according to DepEd Secretary Jesli Lapus.

Improving education

On the other hand, some 10,000 public schools will benefit from the USAID program.

Aside from Sultan Kudarat, TNR Telecoms and WIT have installed CEP equipment in the following provinces: Sulu, Tawi-Tawi, Basilan, Lanao del Norte, Lanao del Sur, Zamboanga del Norte, Zamboanga del Sur, Zamboanga Sibugay, North Cotabato, Agusan del Norte and Agusan del Sur.

TNR Telecoms aims to "provide Iptar services for rural Internet connectivity and distance e-learning, e-governance, e-commerce, as well as provide cost-effective connectivity to other telecommunication service providers," Yalung said.

Iptar "will not only help improve the countryside economy but uplift the lives of less-fortunate Filipinos living in the country's remotest areas by providing them with high-speed Internet connectivity," he said.



De La Salle University
Manila

Center for Language Learning

Rm. 1503, Br. Andrew Gonzalez Hall
2269 Taft Avenue, Malate, Manila

Course Offerings

Reading Comprehension & Voc. Dev't	Writing Skills
Conversational English	Oral Communication for Foreigners
English Proficiency	Business English
English Pronunciation	Technical Writing

Regular class schedule: Monday to Friday 2 hours a day 15 days

Registration: January 2-4, 2008	Classes: January 8-28, 2008
January 25-31, 2008	February 4-22, 2008
February 22-28, 2008	March 3-26, 2008

Saturday Class Offerings

Seminar on Teaching English as a Foreign/Second Language
(Methods and Principles of Teaching EFL/ESL)
Seminar-Workshop on English Conversational Fluency for Office Personnel
Advanced Conversational English
Oral Communication
English Proficiency for Filipinos
Effective Writing for Filipinos
Business English

Basic Languages

* Mandarin * Japanese * French * Spanish * Filipino for Foreigners

Arrangements can be made for:

* Tutorials	* Special Group Class	* Saturday Class	* Evening Class
Review classes for:	* TOEFL	* TOEIC	* TWE
		* TSE	* IBT TS

For details, please contact:

De La Salle University-Manila, Center for Language Learning
Telephone No.: 524-4611 loc. 403

NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU
Room 201, Bonuan Apartelle
10 Happy Glen Loop, Baguio City
Tel. No. (074) 443-9255
Fax No. (074) 443-8971
E-mail: lnb_baguio@inquirer.com.ph

SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU
2nd Floor, Los Baros Bldg.
Cor. Pinaranda and Aguilardo Sts.
Legazpi City
Tel/Fax No. (052) 480-4182
E-mail: lns_bicol@inquirer.com.ph

E-mail: pr_provincial_news@inquirer.com.phWebsites: www.inquirer.net/regions

Across the NATION

Track us your feedbacks: inquirer@inquirer.com.ph or 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) Assistant Editor Tony Borjonia

VISAYAS BUREAU
670 Cebu Daily News
18-19 Escario St. Cebu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 233-0346/233-0349
Fax No. (032) 232-9936
E-mail: inv_cebu@inquirer.com.ph

MINDANAO BUREAU
PEP Printing Corp. Bldg.
Na-a Road, Davao City
Tel. No. (082) 244-1770 to 71
Fax No. (082) 244-1771
E-mail: ind_davao@inquirer.com.ph

'Cracker makers say 2007 a bad year

BOCAUE, BULACAN—FIRECRACKER AND PYROTECHNIC manufacturers said 2007 is one of the worst years for the industry as the government's efforts to discourage Filipinos from using their products led to low sales this year.

While prices of firecrackers and pyrotechnic products have increased by 30 to 40 percent in the run-up to the New Year celebration because of high demand, advertisements on radio,

TV and newspapers on the supposed dangers of using these products have discouraged people from buying them, according to Rolando Bonilla, vice president of the Philippine Py-

rotechnic Manufacturers and Dealers Association Inc.

Bonilla said government sponsored plugs against the industry and various campaigns launched by the Department of Health, the police and local governments have hurt the industry the most.

Vinnie Erese, PPMDAI president, earlier called as "absurd" the plan of Health Secretary Francisco Duque to phase out

the use of firecrackers.

She said the plan would kill the firecracker and pyrotechnic industry in the country.

She asked the Department of Health to help inform the public about the proper and safe ways of using firecrackers and pyrotechnics, and not ban their use.

Manufacturers and dealers said since Dec. 26, stalls selling firecrackers and pyrotechnics have started 24-hour opera-

tions to accommodate buyers.

Michael Duglasan, one of the stall owners in Pyro Ville, an area designated for these products in Barangay Turo here, said prices have started to increase in the past three days due to high demand.

"Kuwits," one of the most sought after product, sells for P3.50 to P4 each. A box of "Five Star," which used to sell for P18, is sold for P35 to P40.

"Sawa," with 1,000 pieces of firecrackers strung together, sells for P350 to P400, up from P250 last week. The bigger type, with 10,000 pieces, costs P2,500.

Some dealers also attributed the price increase to low supply as many manufacturers produced fewer stocks this year due to the high cost of raw materials and chemicals. *Carmela Reyes, Inquirer Central Luzon*

Huwag magpapaputok!



Maaaring mangyari sa'yo ito

Sundin ang FOURmula Kontra Paputok!



Huwag magpapaputok! Gumamit ng ibang pampaingay tulad ng tambol, torotot at iba pa.



Kung naputukan, hugasan ang sugat ng sabon at malinis na tubig at agad na pumunta sa pinakamalapit na ospital o health center.



Huwag pulutin ang hindi pumutok na paputok.



Huwag magpapaputok ng baril.

DOH it na!



SUPPORTERS OF jailed former Muslim rebel leader Nur Misuari salute during their National Summit Conference, Dec. 28, at the South Cotabato Complex in Koronadal City. PHOTOS BY GEOFFREY MAITTEM/INQUIRER MINDANAO

MNLF positive on review of 1996 pact with gov't

KORONADAL CITY—THE MORO National Liberation Front (MNLF) said it was optimistic that its tripartite meeting with the government and the Organization of the Islamic Conference, which will be held in Manila next month, will produce good results.

The meeting was aimed at finding solutions to the MNLF complaint that the government has not implemented the 1996 peace agreement in full.

MNLF combatants, who are growing impatient over the alleged non-implementation of some provisions in the agreement, have occasionally clashed with soldiers, especially in the province of Sulu.

Muslimin Sema, MNLF secretary general, yesterday told the INQUIRER that the government-MNLF Joint Working Group (JWG) held preliminary talks in Manila in connection with the tripartite meeting scheduled on Jan. 3.

The JWG, composed of three

representatives each from the government and the MNLF, was formed during the first tripartite meeting held in Jeddah in November.

Sema said the MNLF hopes to resolve some of these issues—a unified security force for the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, a unique political system for the ARMM, MNLF representation in the national government.

"We are hopeful that the government will implement the remaining provisions of the peace treaty religiously," Sema said by phone from Manila.

Some 5,000 supporters of jailed MNLF chair Nur Misuari converged here on Friday and called on the government to release him from prison.

During the summit, Misuari's supporters said their leader's release would boost peace and security efforts in Mindanao. *Jeoffrey Maittem, Inquirer Mindanao*

A SUPPORTER OF Misuari holds a flag on Dec. 28, during a summit of MNLF leaders and members in Koronadal City. The MNLF is awaiting talks with the government on the implementation of a 1996 peace agreement that was signed during the term of former President Fidel Ramos.



BAGUMBAYAN

Volunteers for a New Philippines

A Covenant for a New Philippines

We live in a time of crisis and confusion. We seem to have lost our way as a people and as a nation in this prolonged season of economic challenges and political rancor.

Fear and helplessness have led many citizens to become inured to corruption and injustice. Despair has driven many to hard and lonely work abroad. Many Filipinos no longer feel that they have a voice and a stake in the nation and its future.

We cannot long survive—much less prosper—on this path to self-destruction. We cannot lurch from one scandal and one rebellion to another, and expect to achieve our destiny as a modern, just, and progressive nation.

We need change on all levels of society — not just of men, but in men. We need a far-reaching and all-embracing vision; we need a genuine cause for hope; we need proven and inspiring leadership.

And above all, we need to think, to feel, and to act once again as one nation with one destiny, building on both our brightest prospects for the future and on the noblest traditions of our history.

More than four centuries ago, the great chief Rajah Sulayman led his people out of their old embattled Maynilad to a new settlement they called "Bagumbayan"—a new town, a fresh beginning. For Jose Rizal, Bagumbayan was not only the place of his own heroic martyrdom, but the very home and spirit of his dream of a free and prosperous Philippines. And before him, Fathers Gomez, Burgos, and Zamora shed their blood on that same hallowed ground in the name of freedom and democracy.

We now invoke that spirit in our quest of an even newer Bagumbayan—the 21st century Philippines our heroes could only have dreamt of, but which our people have long deserved and which we can yet build.

Bagumbayan is no longer just a place. It is we, the Filipino people, and all that we dream of being and becoming as a nation. And if it is to be, then we must make it happen.

Today, fortified by an abiding faith in God and in the Filipino, we pledge ourselves and join together in this Covenant for a New Philippines—one founded on moral courage, not political expediency, on the rule of law, not of brute power and feudal privilege, on inclusiveness and social justice, not protection for a few; on enterprise and industry, not handouts and quick profit; on education and skills development, not mendicancy and fortune-seeking.

We commit ourselves to finding and supporting new Filipino leaders—men and women with the vision, integrity, and competence to lead us to another Bagumbayan, our new Rajah Sulaymans, Gomburzas, and Rizals. And like these heroes, we shall not fear to do what is right and to break new ground—to value ideas over money, principles over popularity.

All of us who share this dream must courageously face the challenges of our times. Thus, in this act of union and cooperation, we declare:

First, that we must be RESPONSIBLE for ourselves, for our fellow Filipinos, and for our country. We must change our attitudes, and transform ourselves to become horizon-chasers with duty, dignity, and determination;

Second, that we can REINVENT GOVERNMENT to faithfully perform its prime duty to serve and protect the people;

Third, that we can fortify LAW AND ORDER through self-discipline, vigilance, and respect for the rule of law;

Fourth, that we can build a STRONG AND GROWING ECONOMY if we all work, save, and invest in order to prosper;

Fifth, that we must prioritize EDUCATION as the key to national development to compete and lead in the new global economy;

Sixth, that we must provide adequate access to HEALTH CARE for all our people, especially the needy;

Seventh, that we must create JOBS for our people, so that they will not need to seek their fortunes abroad, but rather devote their talents directly to their country and their families;

Eighth, that we must assist our people in securing decent HOMES to live in and LAND to work and build on, so they can be dignified and productive citizens;

Ninth, that we must strengthen and reinforce the FAMILY as the foundation of our nation to develop proper values and virtues in individuals and build solid character; and

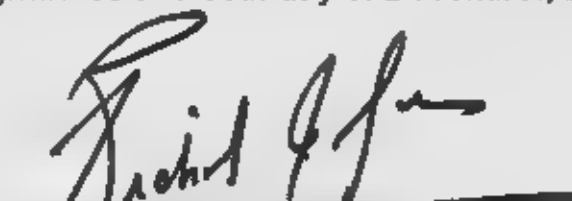
Tenth, that we must protect and preserve the ENVIRONMENT for our posterity.

We must have the Vision grounded on Values and empowered by Volunteerism to achieve Victory. These are the ideals upon which we lay the foundation of our movement for change. We are the instruments of a movement dedicated to transform the Philippines into a Bagumbayan, a new Philippines.

We invite every patriotic Filipino to join us in this shared struggle. Let us embark together on this grand mission to reclaim, rebuild, and reconsecrate what Rizal—111 years ago today—bid farewell to as "our Eden lost," but which remains our birthright and our redemption: Bagumbayan.

Where our heroes have fallen, there shall we rise, reborn.

To these noble ends and principles, we hereby affix our names and signatures this 30th day of December, 2007.


Richard J. Gordon

AGUSAN DEL NORTE Titus Thaddeus Vesagas, Businessman * AGUSAN DEL SUR Julius Gonzales, Businessman * AKLAN Enli Ibardeola, Assistant Station Manager, Bombo Radyo * ALBAY Cesarita dela Cruz, Chairperson, Albay Seed Growers Multipurpose Coop * ANTIPOLO CITY Dr. Alfredo Paspe, Jr., Chief, Antipolo Community Hospital * ANTIQUE Atty. Bonifacio Alentajan, Lawyer * AURORA Samuel Elterma, President, Aurora Kabalikatan Civicom Inc. * BASILAN Tatuh Alih Macrohon, President, Association of Barangay Captains of Lamlan * BATAAN Alex Deyrit, Businessman * BATANGAS Dr. Rafael Baculi, President, Alpha Phi Omega Batangas Alumni Association * BENGUET/BAGUIO CITY Atty. Raco Agcaolli, Director, Baguio Country Club * BOHOL Arles Aumentado, Businessman * BUKIDNON Atty. Marlowe Selecios, Lawyer * BULACAN Francisco Ariag, Jr., President, Upsilon Sigma Phi Alumni Association Inc. * CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY Adrian Pabayo, Governor, Philippine National Red Cross * CAMARINES NORTE Omar Ong, Businessman * CAMARINES SUR Fidel Cu, President, Camarines Sur Filipino Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry * CAMIGUIN Lauro Reyes Francisco, Businessman * CAPIZ Joernari Tan, School Director, St. Michael Montessori Inc. * CATANDUANES Henry Hernandez, Station Manager, DZAA FM * CAVITE Atty. Maximiano Tegle, Lawyer * CEBU/CEBU CITY Andrew Co, Businessman * COMPOSTELA VALLEY Renato Caballero, Businessman * DAVAO DEL NORTE Manuel Madayag, Businessman * DAVAO DEL SUR/DAVAO CITY Jerry Sy, Businessman * DAVAO ORIENTAL Atty. Israel Torentera, Lawyer * DINAGAT ISLANDS Atty. Ver Madrona, Lawyer * EASTERN SAMAR Jesse Solidon, Councilor, City of Borongan * ILOCOS NORTE Mary Ang, President, Ilocos Norte Federated NGO * ILOCOS SUR Santiago Cabatu, Businessman * ILOILO Dominador Co, Businessman * ILOILO CITY Honorato "Talyo" Espinosa, Businessman * ISABELA Rolando Ragsac, President, Transport Federation of Santiago City * LAGUNA Neil Donato, President, Laguna Tourism Council * LANA DEL NORTE Wilfredo Bacarezza, Sr., Businessman * LANA DEL SUR Abdul Khayr Alonto, Businessman * LEYTE Tanny Go, Businessman * MAGUINDANAO Aladin Sumail, Businessman * MARINDUQUE Joel Pedro, President, Sta. Cruz Institute Marinduque, Inc. * METRO MANILA Felicio Valmodina, Former Brgy. Captain, Brgy. Holy Spirit, Quezon City * MISAMIS ORIENTAL Neil Cubillo, Councilor, Municipality of Balingasag * NEGROS OCCIDENTAL/BACOLOD CITY Francis Jalandoni, Businessman * NEGROS ORIENTAL/DUMAGUETE CITY Capt. Edith Vera, PCGA, President, Negros Oriental Maritime School * NORTH COTABATO Jesus Sacdalan, Governor, Province of North Cotabato * NUEVA ECUIA Ruben de Guzman, Businessman * OLONGAPO CITY Mayor James Gordon, Jr., Mayor, City of Olongapo * ORIENTAL MINDORO Rizalino Mendoza, Director, Oriental Mindoro Electric Cooperative * PANGASINAN Alejandra Clemente, President, Federation of Tourism Industries of the Philippines * PALAWAN Roger Almira, Businessman * PAMPANGA Renato Tayag, Jr., President, Advocacy for the Development of Central Luzon * QUEZON Cesar Villarba, Jr., Exec. Director, Kabalikatan ng Katutubong Kabuhayan, Inc. * QUIRINO Manuel Domingo, Jr., Chairperson, Advocates Healthy Living, Inc. * RIZAL Engr. Teodoro Del Rosario, Rizal Agri-Business Cooperative, Inc. * SARANGANI Ed Cejar, President, Sarangani Chamber of Commerce and Industry * SHARIFF KABUNSUAN Alexander Tomawis, Mayor, Municipality of Bantay, President, League of Municipalities of the Philippines, Shariff Kabunsuan Chapter * SORSOGON Roland Arsola, President, Sorsogon Press Club * SOUTHERN LEYTE Joy Roble, Businessman * SULTAN KUDARAT Vispicious Ramos, Sr., President, Sultan Kudarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry Foundation, Inc. * SURIGAO DEL NORTE Emy Corpin, Businessman * SURIGAO DEL SUR Rolando Capitlan, Businessman * TARLAC Patricio Pineda, President, PYP Agro-Industries, Inc. * TAWI-TAWI Eddie Alih, Chancellor, Mindanao State University Tawi-Tawi College of Technology and Oceanography * ZAMBALES Amor Deloso, Governor, Province of Zamboanga * ZAMBOANGA CITY Abdurrahman Nuffo, Former Federation President, Liga ng mga Barangay * ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE Lito Aseniero, National Commander, Philippine Coast Guard Auxiliary * ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR Lorenzo Ramos, Dentist * ZAMBOANGA SIBUGAY Jun Mañalac, Businessman

To join, please contact: join@bagumbayan-vnp.com, 09228673425, 02-8131257, or visit www.bagumbayan-vnp.com.

INQUIRER *Mindanao*

Resto offers fresh fish to eat, watch

By Julie S. Alipala
Kumalarang,
Zamboanga del Norte

WHETHER SAID that great ambience and fine dining are only experienced in famous and expensive hotels in the metropolis, where skilled chefs make delectable dishes?

In the remote town of Kumalarang in Zamboanga del Norte, about 50 kilometers from Pagadian City, a stopover eatery known as "Kan-anan sa Balsa" offers superb dishes at a fraction of the amount charged in restaurants elsewhere.

Clients take their meals in bamboo cottages mounted on rafts that float over fishponds. As they feast, entertainment is provided by African catfish and golden tilapia going frenzy over food bits thrown into the water.

Crab raiser

The restaurant was opened only on Nov. 6, according to its owner, Rey Quisumbing, who owns the 60 hectares of fishpond where it is afloat. Before going into this venture, Quisumbing was known as a crab raiser.



THEY can't get any fresher than this. Hito and tilapia are exhibited at a 60-hectare fishpond in Kumalarang, Zamboanga del Norte. The fish, says the fishpond owner, are not for food but "just for show" to display how fresh food can be at the Kan-anan sa Balsa, a restaurant in the town. JULIE ALIPALA

"I wanted to explore further because business is not just about raising, producing and marketing crabs, prawns, fish and fruits," he said. "I had been running and operating a crab business since 1972, but it became not profitable in the long run because of disease affecting the crustaceans."

When the business turned

bad, his employees, who have been with him for a long time, were on the brink of losing their jobs, too, he said. So he thought of getting into the restaurant business.

Family business

The families of his 35 employees help out at the Kan-anan sa Balsa.

"The head of the family is the one concentrating and attending to my farms while their wives and children take turns in running the eatery either as cashiers, cooks, and even waitresses," Quisumbing said.

"Some also take care of the maintenance and other services required in the eatery."

Although the business was

still new, clients have started coming. Many have learned of the place by word of mouth.

The dishes—such as "pinaputok na tilapia," "alimango sa balsa," "pinisik na manok" and "bilao"—are cooked and served "home-style."

And what would be more comforting than not having to think of paying much for every

meal. For example, "pinaputok na tilapia," which is actually broiled tilapia with lemon grass, tomatoes and other spices, only costs P55 per serving. Rice is free with that amount.

"Alimango sa balsa," which is cooked with coconut milk and chili, costs only P105 per serving of two to three crabs.

Vegetarian dishes

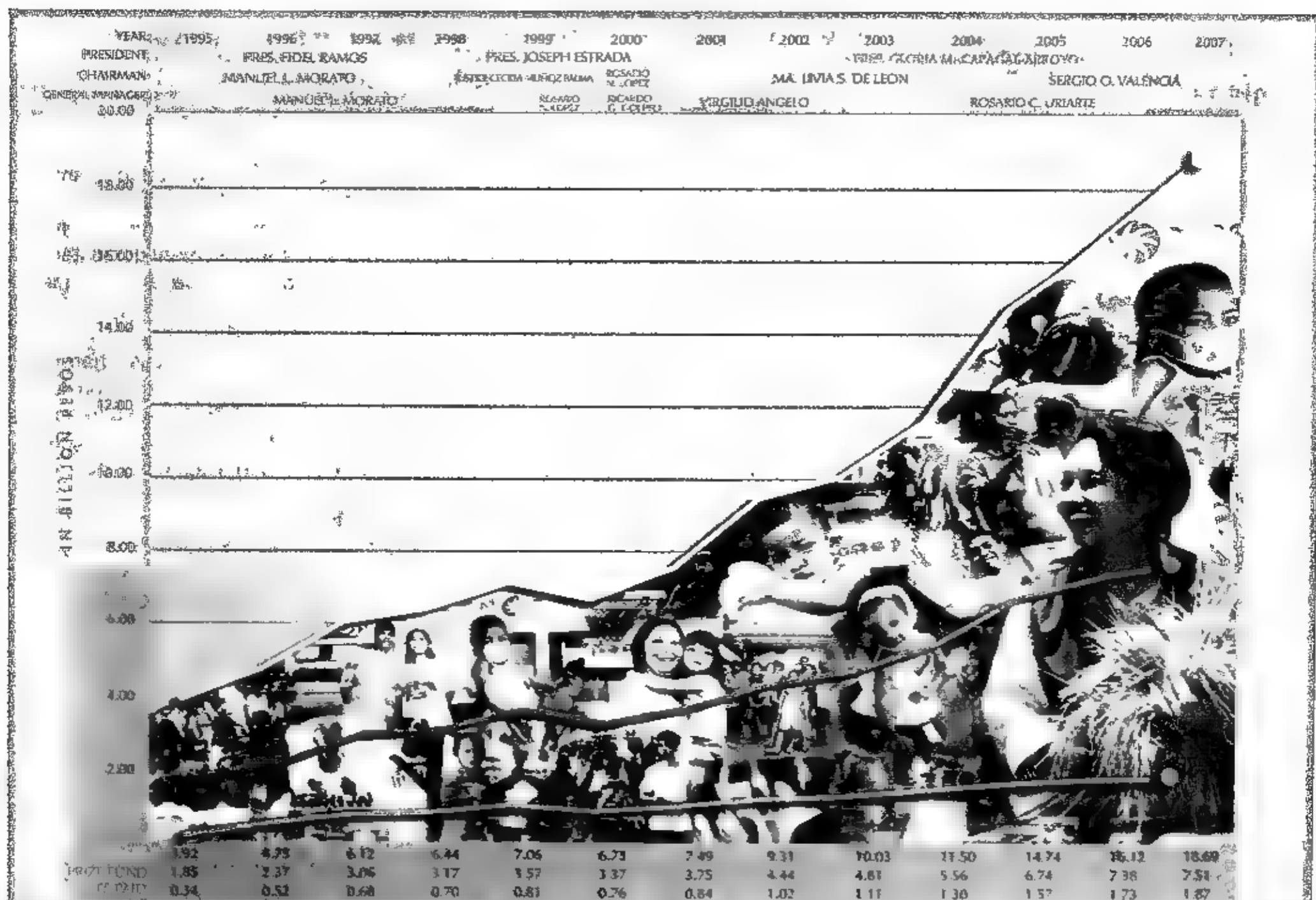
Quisumbing said a group of six could also try their "bilao," which consists of tabungaw and tilapia, spicy pinangat eggplant, spicy shrimps and halabos, and two pieces of native chicken. The dish costs P175 or around P29 per person.

What about diners who don't want fish or crustaceans served? The menu always has ready alternatives, Quisumbing said.

For vegetarians, there are homegrown organic vegetables such as Chinese pechay or kangkong, string beans and eggplants.

And oh, there are fruits, such as bananas, mangoes and papayas from Quisumbing's Royal Quality Agro Resources.

"Muslims can also eat here because we don't serve pork dishes. Only crustaceans, fish, chickens, vegetables and fruits," Quisumbing said.



GIVING HOPE TO MILLIONS

CAKING FOR CHARITY

It's all on record. Our sales increased from 3.9 billion pesos in 1995 to 18.69 billion pesos in 2007.

Since the beginning of the lotto games in 1995, we were able to give 57.5 billion pesos worth of prizes, produce 300 new millionaires, and provide 31.4 billion pesos worth of charity to more than one million beneficiaries in need of medical assistance nationwide.

With only 1,500 outlets all over the country and our small army of sweepstakes ticket sellers, we surely know how to make things work: playing lotto, sweepstakes and STL (Small Town Lottery) is giving to charity.



OFFICE OF
THE PRESIDENT



PHILIPPINE
CHARITY
SWEEPSTAKES
OFFICE

INQUIRER

E-mail: devac@inquirer.com.ph

Website: www.inquirer.net/region

Editor: Jun Bandayres

Bureau Chief: Nico A. Alconaba

Resto offers fresh fish to eat, watch

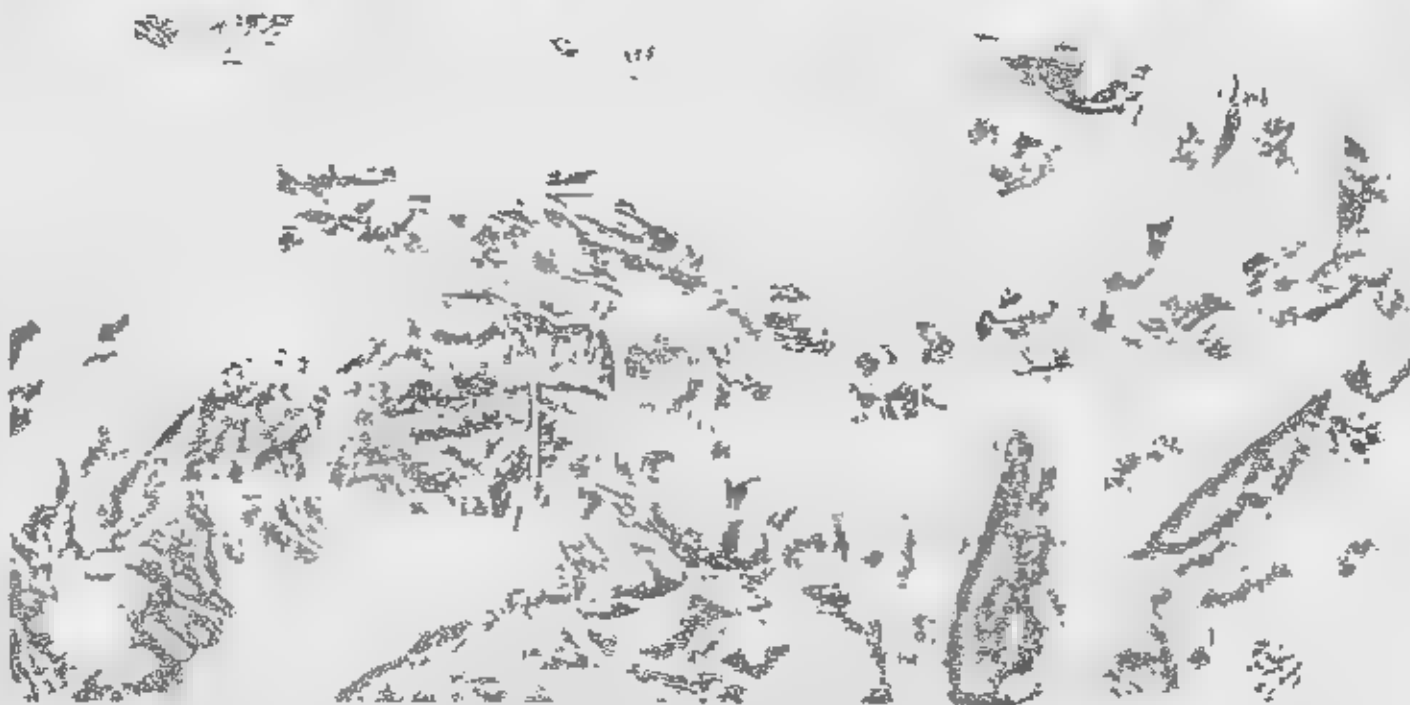
By Julie S. Alipala
Kumalarang
Zamboanga del Norte

WHETHER SAID that great ambience and fine dining are only experienced in famous and expensive hotels in the metropolis, where skilled chefs make delectable dishes?

In remote town of Kumalarang in Zamboanga del Norte, about 50 kilometers from Pagadian City, a simple eatery known as "Kan-anan sa Balsa" offers superb dishes at a fraction of the amount charged in restaurants elsewhere. Clients take their meals in a rustic cottage mounted on stilts that float over its ponds. The feast, entertainment is ruled by African music and food. Tilapia going frenzy over bits thrown into the water.

Crab raiser

A restaurant was opened only on Nov. 6, according to its owner, Rey Quisumbing, who has the 60-hectare fish pond where it is located. Before going into this venture, Quisumbing was known as a crab raiser.



THEY can't get any fresher than this. Hito and tilapia are exhibited at a 60-hectare fishpond in Kumalarang, Zamboanga del Norte. The fish, says the fishpond owner, are not for food but "just for show" to display how fresh food can be at the Kan-anan sa Balsa, a restaurant in the town.

Quisumbing explained further because business is no just about raising production and marketing crabs, prawns, fish and fruits, he said. "I had been running and operating a crab business since 1972 but it became not profitable in the long run because of disease affecting the crustaceans. When the business turned

around, I decided to explore further because business is no just about raising production and marketing crabs, prawns, fish and fruits, he said. "I had been running and operating a crab business since 1972 but it became not profitable in the long run because of disease affecting the crustaceans. When the business turned

Family business

The families help each other in the business. The families help each other in the business. The families help each other in the business.

The head of the family is still in the business. The head of the family is still in the business. The head of the family is still in the business.

meal for example, dinaputok na tilapia which is actually broiled tilapia with lemon grass, omelette and other specialities. The price is P105 per plate.

Vegetarian dishes

There are also vegetarian dishes like vegetable soup, hot chili, and other dishes. The price is P105 per plate.



It's all on record. Our sales increased from 3.9 billion pesos in 1995 to 18.69 billion pesos in 2007. Since the beginning of the lotto games in 1995, we were able to give 57.5 billion pesos worth of prizes, produce 300 new millionaires, and provide 31.4 billion pesos worth of charity to more than one million kababayans in need of medical assistance nationwide. With only 1,500 outlets all over the country and our small army of sweepstakes ticket sellers, we surely know how to make things work: playing lotto, sweepstakes and STL (Small Town Lottery) is giving to charity.



Alaminos seen as ideal site of new airport in Pangasinan

By Gabriel Cardoza
Inquirer Northern Luzon

ALAMINOS CITY—THIS CITY—gateway to the famous Hundred Islands National Park—has made its own sales pitch for an international airport as "the center of economic growth and potential in central Pangasinan," though it may not be geographically centered in the province.

Mayor Hernani Braganza said on Thursday that the construction of an airport here would not only boost tourism to the Hundred Islands but also trigger economic growth and development in the entire province.

He issued the statement following reports that the local chapter of the League of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP) had presented a manifesto to President Macapagal-Arroyo expressing preference for the airport project in Sta. Barbara town in central Pangasinan.

The LMP cited Sta. Barbara's proximity to Manaoag town, also a popular tourist destination being a pilgrimage site for Catholics, and to the business centers of Urdaneta and Dagupan cities.

More attractions

Braganza said 74 percent of the natural destinations of the province are in the first and second district. These include Agno, Anda, Bani, Bo. Mao, Bur-



THE WATERS around the Hundred Islands attract snorkelers and divers. BY ZWANG INQUIRER NORTHERN LUZON

gos, Dasol, Infanta, Mabini, Sual, Aguilar, Basista, Binmaley, Bugallon, Labrador, Lingayen, Mangatarem and Urbiztondo towns, and this city.

"But the problem is that these are not accessible in the sense that *mabagal yong punta ng turista dito* (tourist arrival is slowed down) because of the travel time," the mayor said.

With an airport, Braganza expected an increase in the number of investors for the tourism industry, "so there will be more business and job opportunities for the people of Pangasinan."

Agriculture benefits

The agricultural and industrial potential of the province will also be benefited, he said. He pointed out that the first and

second districts comprised 51 percent of the land area of the province.

"So, the agricultural potential of Pangasinan, when it comes to exportable produce, is here. We have livestock, fisheries and mangoes," he said.

For Pangasinan

Special economic zones have been designated in this city and in neighboring Mabini, Sual and Bani towns.

"Then, we have the major infrastructures. We have a seaport and a power plant in Sual. And the airport and seaport come together, they complement," he said.

Gov. Amado Espino Jr., who was reported to have expressed support for the construction of

an airport in Sta. Barbara, clarified that he was not against the choice of Alaminos as site of an international airport.

"Wherever it will be located, I like it because I am the governor of Pangasinan," he said.

Using provincial government funds, Espino has started the rehabilitation of the airport in the capital town of Lingayen, where student pilots have been training.

"We have done our share in convincing the President to put up an airport in the province. Maybe, we (political leaders) should just talk about this *kaysa yong magpaparamihan tayo ng pipirma kang saan* (itayay). This should be an economic issue rather than a political issue," Braganza said.

Communist rebs burn equipment for road repair

LUCENA CITY—COMMUNIST New People's Army (NPA) rebels torched two units of heavy equipment and a bunk house last Dec. 26, the military's Southern Luzon Command (Solcom) based in Camp Nakar here said Saturday.

Army Maj. Randolph Cabangbang, Solcom spokesperson, cited a report saying that at about 5.30 p.m., at least 20 communist rebels burned one grader, one compactor and the bunk house being used by workers in Sitio (subvillage) Mangahan in Barangay Pagsangahan in San Francisco town located at the tip of the Bondoc Peninsula.

Farm-to-market roads

Cabangbang said that based on the report, the destroyed pieces of property, which were being used in the construction of farm-to-market roads, were owned by San Francisco town Mayor Hernani Tan, also the president of the Quezon mayors' league.

Cabangbang said the attack was allegedly the result of Tan's refusal to give in to the demands of communist rebels.

He did not elaborate on the supposed demands.

When contacted through his mobile phone, Tan denied owning the destroyed heavy equipment.

He identified the true owner

of the burned equipment as Domingo Tan, a Lucena-based public works contractor.

"Once again the NPA demonstrated its desperation to extort money at the expense of the people who would have benefited from the road project," Cabangbang said over the phone.

The Solcom official branded the communist rebels as "anti-development."

"They should be blamed for the regression of communities they continuously terrorize," he said.

In the spirit of the Christmas season, the military declared a 22-day ceasefire from Dec. 16 to Jan. 6.

The NPA reciprocated and announced a similar truce on Dec. 24, 25, and 31, and on Jan. 1.

The communist guerrillas have stepped up attacks on government and select nongovernment targets, especially communication towers of a private telecoms company that refused to pay the so-called revolutionary taxes.

According to the military, the Communist Party of the Philippines and the NPA have lost their traditional sources of funding and resources from abroad after they were listed as foreign terrorist organizations by the United States and the European Union in 2004. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., Inquirer Southern Luzon*

Palawan goes easy on mining as gas royalty seen coming in

By Redempto Anda
Inquirer Southern Luzon

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—With at least P6 billion in natural gas royalty expected over the next three years, which can double if it wins ownership of the Camago Malampaya oil and gas reserves in the Supreme Court, Palawan is going easy on mining investments.

"We won't really need them anymore if we can get the Malampaya money," Gov. Joel T. Reyes told the INQUIRER following last week's mining summit here.

"We will come up with the official policy statement on this in January, after we have consolidated the issues raised in the mining summit," Reyes said.

Last week, the governor announced that the provincial government was expecting the allocation of at least P3 billion for local development projects from the escrowed Malampaya share after it agreed with the national government to jointly utilize the funds while awaiting the SC ruling.

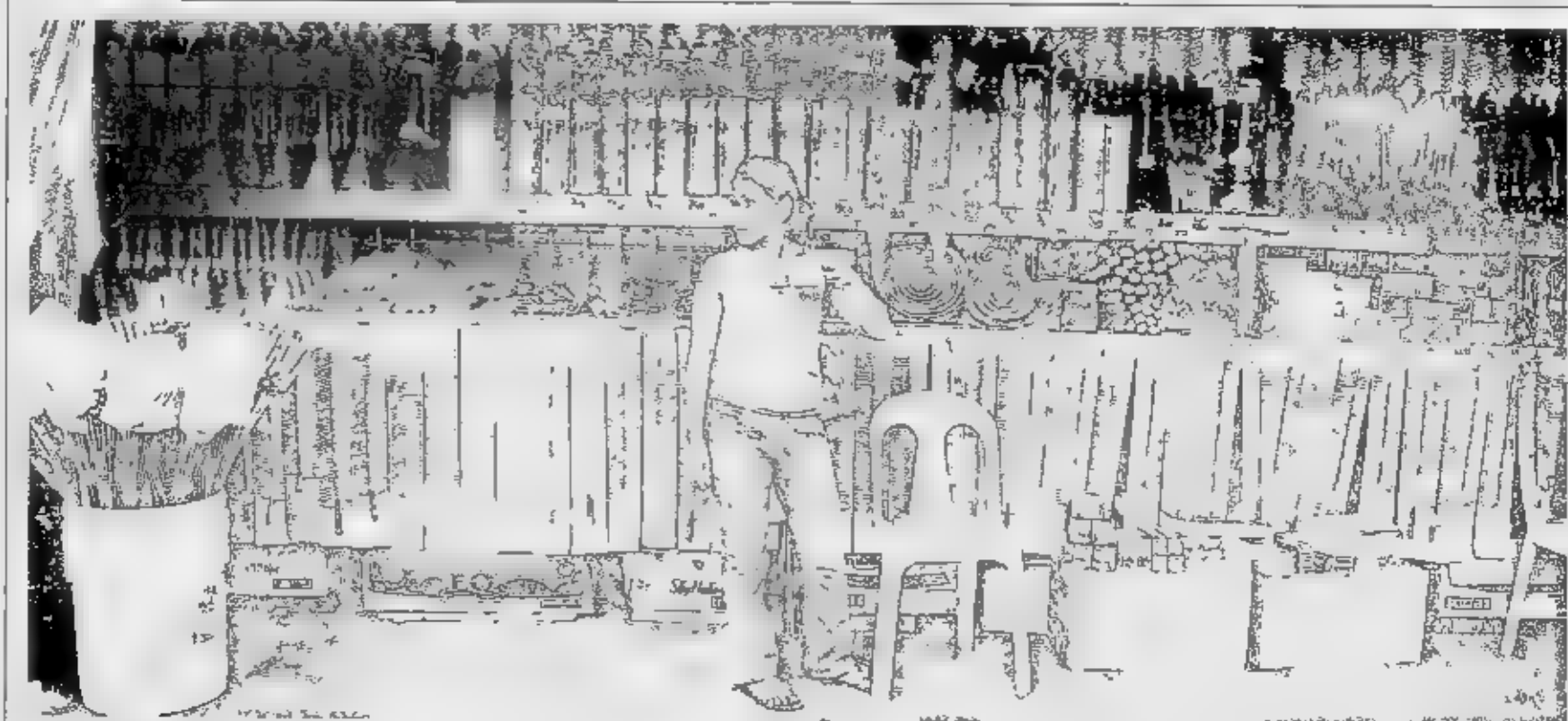
The agreement also allows the provincial government to securitize the future income of Palawan from Malampaya, a plan that is expected to bring in another P3 billion in cash revenues.

Service Contract 38 led by Shell Spex, which operates the gas project off El Nido, Palawan, has paid some P12 billion in royalty to the national government. The province filed a suit after President Macapagal-Arroyo declared in 2005 that the gas reserves were out of its jurisdiction.

During the mining summit, Reyes announced that Palawan would impose a moratorium on exploration activities in the nickel and manganese-rich area of Mt. Mantalingahan, which is set to be declared a protected landscape.

He said small-scale mining operations in the southern areas would be scrutinized after these had come under fire from environmental groups for violations of the law.

"What would the province really get from them?" Reyes said in Filipino, referring to the tax exemptions allowed by mining laws to small-scale operations.



CAFFEINE BLAST

A firecracker vendor takes a coffee break at her stall in Iloilo City. The sale of firecrackers is picking up in the city, that has a large ethnic Chinese population, as the New Year draws near.

ARNOLD ALMADEN/INQUIRER VISAYAS

Magsaysay boy's SBMA post raises eyebrows

Gordon, Zambales gov cry foul on appointment of 23-year-old to his 2nd gov't job

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—EXCEPT for a stint as political affairs officer in his mother's congressional office, 23-year-old Vicente "Jobo" Magsaysay II has made it big in his second job.

The eldest son of Jesus Vicente Magsaysay and Zambales Rep. Milagros Magsaysay has been named by President Macapagal-Arroyo to the 14-member board of the state-owned Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority as the province's private sector representative.

Critics

His appointment, made known only last week, was criticized by sectors in the freeport, notably Sen. Richard Gordon and Zambales Gov. Amor Deloso.

In separate interviews, Gordon and Deloso said the young Magsaysay had never held a job prior to his appointment as SBMA director.

Gordon said Republic Act No. 7227, or the bases conversion law that also created the SBMA, has not been followed again in this case.

"The workers of the (former Subic Naval Base) have been totally excluded," said Gordon,

the first chair of the SBMA and former mayor of Olongapo City, where much of the former base workers live.

He said former employees of the US military in the base's ship repair, public works and naval centers should have representation in the SBMA board to ensure the "continuity of the vision."

The law gave bases conversion agencies, mainly the Bases Conversion Development Authority, power to convert Subic, Clark, Camp John Hay and several former American base lands into productive lands and make the progress in these beneficial to those formerly dependent on the US bases.

"I was really disturbed by it," he said of Magsaysay's appointment, adding that he learned about this from Deloso.

The governor said he was "upset."

Contribution

"I don't know what the boy would contribute to the SBMA when he has not done any job in his life," Deloso said.

SBMA Chair Feliciano Salonga on Wednesday confirmed that Magsaysay had joined the board, the policy-making body of the SBMA.



MAGSAYSAY

Magsaysay replaced his father, Jesus Vicente, who ran and lost for Zambales governor in the May 14 elections. His grandfather, former Gov. Vicente Magsaysay, also lost in his senatorial bid.

"(Magsaysay) was appointed by our President. She wrote us a letter for Jobo to join the board," Salonga said in a phone interview.

He said the young Magsaysay had attended two board meetings this month.

Reached by phone, Magsaysay said his SBMA stint was so far "second job he has held in his life. The first was as political affairs officer in his

mother's congressional office.

"I ran the office and I took that job seriously," he said.

Magsaysay said he finished AB Political Science at the Ateneo de Manila University, where he is also taking up a master's degree in public management.

"I'm young but I'm capable for the job. As a director, I think I can do moral decision-making. *Wala akong bahid na anything na marumi* (I have not been smeared by any wrongdoing)," he told the INQUIRER.

Fast learner

"I am really a hard worker. Ang learning curve *ko mabilis na matatao* (I learn fast). I have been observing how (other directors) are answering. *Inaalal ko talaga* (I'm really trying to learn)," he said.

Magsaysay said he should not be perceived as someone riding on the name of his family.

"I want to excel. I will ask my elders for advice but the decision-making will be mine," he said.

Age, according to him, should "never be an issue" because "there are many young people in government agencies and in Congress."

"My grandfather became gov-

ernor when he was 26," he said.

His mother, Representative Magsaysay, said the opinions of her son's detractors should "not be the yardstick of my son's capability."

"Who are they to judge him?" she asked.

"He's *sobrang level-headed*. *Martingog siyang sumabay ka nasa matas ka o mababa*. *Nenerbiyosin sila sa kanya* because he's qualified (My son is extremely level-headed. He knows how to deal with people from all walks of life. They'll be scared of him because he's qualified)," she said of her son, the eldest in a brood of six.

Her son, she added, was "not bobo (dumb)."

Salonga has called Magsaysay "our young David." "He's in a learning mode, absorbing much of the issues. I'm guiding him in the issues because his parents are friends to me," the SBMA chair said.

As director, Magsaysay gets P10,000 in honorarium per meeting (two or three are held monthly), free housing within the freeport and gas allowance.

The position of the late Jose Caunilim as senior deputy administrator remains vacant (Caunilim, 62, died on Nov. 30 after a lingering illness).

HANDOG NG SMART ANG SIM CARD NG BAGONG BAYANI.



COMMUNICATIONS

INFORMATION

INTERVIEW

REPORT

Ang Smart Pinoy SIM

Ang tunay na OFW SIM ng SMART. Ready nang gamitin. Ready nang dalhin abroad.

PINAKAMURA!

- P20 per text to the Philippines
- P1 per text from the Philippines to Abroad
- Libre ang pagtanggap ng text

PINAKASIMPLE!

- Pre-activated text roaming
- With P20 pre load
- Zero maintaining balance habang naka-roaming

PINALAWAK!

- Largest subscriber community worldwide
- Pinakamaraming international services
- Pwedeng gamitin saan man sa mundo



P70
only!

	TEXT RATE MULA ABROAD	TEXT RATE MULA PILIPINAS	ROAMING FEATURE	MAINTAINING BALANCE
SA SMART PINOY SIM	P20/text	P1/text	Pre-activated	P0.00 (Permanent offer)
SA IBANG SIM CARD	P25/text	P1/text	Registration needed	P0.00 (Promo only)

Kaya wag umalis ng Pilipinas na wala nito.

SMART
THE POWER TO LEAD

Aplus M

Editor Ester G. Dipasupil

Banker grows edible weeds in Antipolo garden

By Prosy B. Montesines
Contributor

WEEDS, THE NEMESIS OF gardeners, could be the key to eradicating malnutrition and hunger in Metro Manila and other urban areas.

And a banker, who says she grows fresh air in her Antipolo garden on weekends, shows us how.

"Edible wild plant species should be an important part of the urban diet," said Flor Gozon Tarriela who grows weeds in her five-hectare hideaway right beside the Carolina Bamboo Garden in Antipolo City. "By growing them, we also grow fresh air," she added.

The property, a gift from her mother, Carolina L. Gozon, is a patch of paradise where wild plants and trees are growing.

Among the edible weeds in her garden are *talunum* (*Talinum fruticosum* or *Talinum triangulare*), *katuray* or vegetable hummingbird (*Sesbania grandiflora*), *ulasman*, *pancit-pancitan* (*Peperomia pellucida*), fern or *pako*, oregano, and the rare wild *pipino* (crunchy minuscule cucumber that promises to be a big hit once it is properly propagated).

There are also folk medicinal plants such as *kataka-taka*, *butones-butanisan*, *sabila*, *lagundi*, *sambong*, *makahiya*, *damong maria*, *tanglad* or lemon grass, *ikno* and *takup-kuhol*.

Studies show that many edible wild plant species can be used to meet people's nutrient needs, especially that of groups at risk like children, pregnant or lactating women and the elderly.

Diet improvement

Lesser-known edible plants deserve serious attention because they can help improve diets in many Third World countries, according to Louis E. Grivetti of the Department of Nutrition at the University of California and Britta M. Ogle of the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences who wrote an article titled "The Wild Plant Connection" in the *Nutrition Research Review*.

"Humans have sometimes starved in the midst of 'wild food plenty,'" Grivetti and Ogle said, pointing out that many families and societies have survived during times of crisis such as political conflicts, epidemics or famine by feeding on edible wild plants.

Organizations such as the World Wide Fund, International Institute for Environment and Development and the Swedish International Development Authority have reportedly been battling for

BANKER/A22



A HANGING bridge leads to the banker's "patch of paradise" in Antipolo City.



EDIBLE weeds thrive in the garden of Flor Gozon Tarriela, an official of the Philippine National Bank.



Paskong Panalo

ang pamilya dahil naka-peso rate na ang IDD ng Globe.

Regaluhan si 'Tay ng tawag para merry ang Christmas niya

P7.50 per min IDD to US and Canada

Mas madali, dahil 'di mo na iisipin ang dollar exchange rate.
Longer time pa ang family bonding dahil sa napakamurang rates!

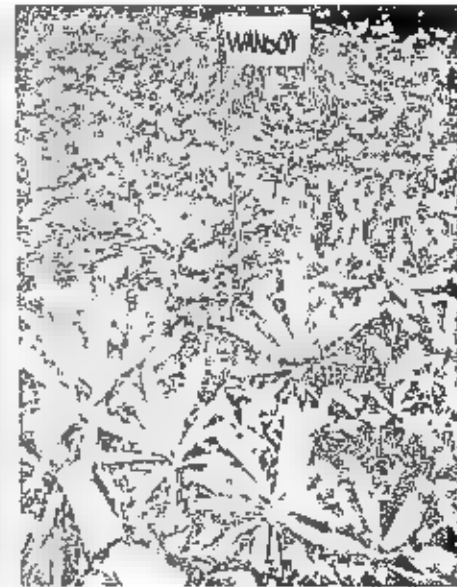
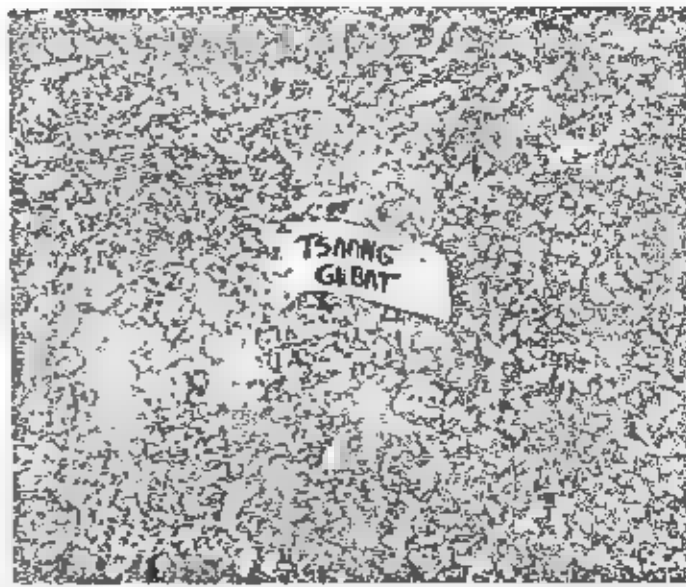
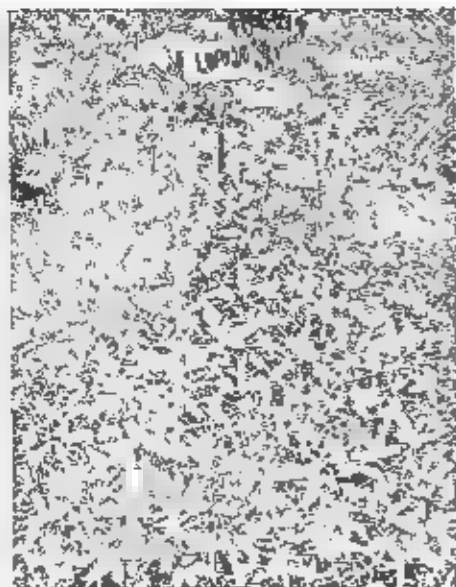
Dial 12808 + (country code) + (area code) + (phone number)
Available from 10pm to 5:59am Philippine time only.

Text TIPID IDD to 2929 for more info on other Peso IDD offers
such as P0.17 kada segundo (to selected countries).

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4939, Series of 2007. Promo is from December 16, 2007 to January 15, 2008.
See flyers for details.
© 2007 Globe Telecom, Inc.



Globe



"EDIBLE wild plant species should be an important part of the urban diet," says Tarruela who grows turmeric (*luyang dilaw*), taming gubat, wanboy and other weeds in her garden.

Banker grows edible weeds ...

From page A21

the inclusion of wild plant foods in urban agroforestry projects and regional food procurement systems.

However, there are two major problems that need to be addressed first: Inadequate quantifiable data documenting the macro and micro-nutrient contribution of edible weeds to the diet, and the lack of standardized field and laboratory research methods, including proper identification of wild plant species.

Small laboratories

Some herbal and weed gardens have risen to the occasion by serving as small laboratories where the culinary uses and medicinal properties of diverse wild plants are under study.

Tarruela, Philippine National Bank chair, coauthored the book "Oops ... Don't Throw Those Weeds Away" with three other plant lovers—Maur Aquino-Lichauco, Carmen Osmeña-Florero and Nonie A. Dolera.

Published by The Fern and Nature Society of the Philippines, it contains a list of weeds, shrubs, trees, vines, palms and roots that are found in the country, including their uses, propagation and care.

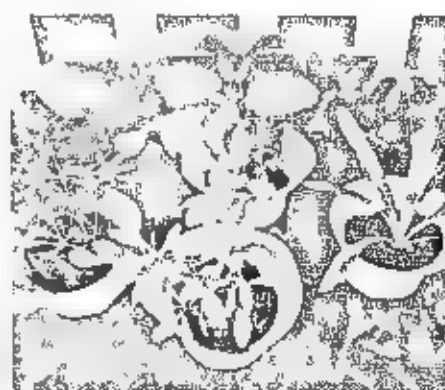
"*Walang Filipino ang dapat magutom* (No Filipino should go hungry)," the authors say.



TARRUELA coauthored the book "Oops ... Don't Throw Those Weeds Away."

Talinum or Philippine spinach, which abounds in roadsides, shaded areas and plantations, is a rich source of calcium, according to the article "Availability of Calcium in Some Philippine Vegetables" written by Adelaida B. Brown and Clara Y. Lim in The

Journal of Nutrition. Edible ferns are a common delicacy but perhaps not many are aware of their high vitamin and mineral content. According to the website of the Food and Agriculture Organiza-



EDIBLE weeds have helped people survive during lean times, according to experts.



ARE WEEDS the solution to malnutrition and hunger?

Beautiful Mornings served daily.

INQUIRER

Available from 6:30 am to 10:30 am
For every purchase of Breakfast Value Meal + Pie

SEE YOUR COPY AT THESE BRANCHES:

- MALABON CONCEPCION - MUNDOZ - MCU - PHILCOA - REGALADO - INTRAMUROS - STA. CRUZ - PEDRO GIL
- LIPUNDO - CAMEZON AVE. - WEST AVENUE - PROJECT 8 - NORTH AVENUE - LIN AVENUE - BSA LUNA
- EDSA ROTONDA - BACALANAN REDEMPTIONIST - QUIRINO TAFT - TRIKALAW - SAN JOAQUIN - PATRICKS BAYAN - SMILL
- BANALAB - EL PUERTO - STRAZA 100 - GREENBELLS - MEGAMALL - BANGKOK - WILSON - EDSA BOM
- EDSA IT CENTER - SUBAO - ALMALL - FARMERS - KANAS - METROLANE - MARCOS HIGHWAY - ANTIPOLO
- C & P MARKINA - EASTWOOD - KATIPUNAN - VISAYAS AVE. - MATALINO - TOMAS MORATO - EDSA PANAY
- BSA FORNOS - BANANE - A. CAMPA - QA BANANE - LIT PARKING DECK - GREENBELT - VALERO - MCS
- BUENOSA - EMANUELITA - NOLA MIT - PEOPLE SUPPORT - MUNT CITYWALL - LAS PINAS - KANASMAN
- TIGES - AIRPORT ROAD - SLICE PALANES - ALAMANG - SOUTHMALL - NORTHGATE FASTWAYS - JP NEAR
- MACD - PRC - MAKAR AVE. - LIBERTAD - HOLIDAY PLAZA - BANGKOK - BANGKOK - PORT BOM 2ND ST

Philippine Daily Inquirer and Sun Day
Visit for more details about us
Printed in Manila, Philippines
Printed in Manila, Philippines

tion, there are about a thousand species of ferns in the Philippines that deserve further studies for their food value.

Most people think of *pancit-pancutan* as a "pest" but it makes a refreshing salad and healthy tea for the relief of urinary ailments, Tarruela said.

Visitors to her farm and garden are usually served *Blushing Blooms*—a Lichauco recipe which has salad greens topped with edible flowers from the wild cosmos plant, blue ternate and *cadena de amor*.

Grivetti and Ogle use the term "hidden harvest" to refer to the concept of studying and understanding the nutritional and ecological roles of wild plants in local and regional food security.

Research efforts—from identification, propagation, nutrition analysis and recipe testing—call for collaborative work among government, botanists, food technologists, nutritionists and

areas can be converted into weed gardens where people can pick food free of artificial fertilizers and pesticides.

Philippines would do well to keep in mind a favorite expression of the American Indians: "All wild plants good. Indians eat 'em and live long time."



"SHED no more tears for overseas Filipino workers. Instead of walling over the so-called 'brain drain,' be glad that the Philippines has found its niche in globalization as a chief source of migrant labor."

JAIME AUGUSTO ZOBEL DE AYALA III
January 2003



Editor Gerry Lirio

E-mail: pr_global_pinoy@inquirer.com.ph

Text us your feedback:
inquirer.go.name/age/city/message
to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

This section is dedicated to Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the world, and wherever work can be contracted to secure a better life for their families. These are their stories.

RP's top liver doctor now in HK

By **Blanche S. Rivera**
Hong Kong correspondent

PATIENTS DIE; dreams don't. So when Dr. Vanessa de Villa, one of the Philippines' leading experts in liver transplantation, moved to Hong Kong last year, her dream of establishing a liver transplant program in her own country was stuffed in her suitcase with the rest of her hopes for Filipino liver patients.

From the understaffed, under-funded Philippine General Hospital (PGH) in Manila, De Villa is now part of a world-class team of surgeons at the Queen Mary Hospital (QMH) in Pok Fu Lam. She is the only Filipino doctor working full time at the QMH, a teaching center of the Hong Kong University, where De Villa is a clinical assistant professor.

Liver surgery at P3 M

When she flew to Hong Kong last year, De Villa left 15 liver patients needing transplantation in the Philippines. Some have gone to Taiwan, where transplant cost is "cheaper" at around P3 million, and others to Singapore.

But others simply died. These are the patients whose deteriorating condition overtook fundraising efforts to afford a new liver.

As in many other diseases, liver patients' fate rests as much on their money as their laboratory tests.

Some end-stage liver disease patients, upon learning that a transplant would require from P3 million to P8 million, on top of the cost of lifetime medication and periodic blood tests, no longer come back to the doctor, resigned to death that comes soon enough.

"It's heartbreaking, but that's the reality," she said in an interview at the QMH.

De Villa, however, had been more hopeful.

Fresh from a six year stint in Spain, where she completed her doctorate and participated in the development of the clinical liver transplant program of the University Clinic of Navarre, the Filipino doctor returned to



DR. VANESSA DE VILLA. Liver transplant is still too expensive for an average Filipino family. **BLANCHE RIVERA**

Manila in 1995 with the goal of establishing a similar program for Filipino liver patients.

Helping liver patients

The concept, however, was not popular then, and De Villa was forced to set aside her plan to focus instead on kidney transplantation, which was already being done at the National Kidney and Transplant Institute in Quezon City.

In 1998, she left Manila for a fellowship at the Chang Gung Memorial Hospital in Kaohsiung, Taiwan where she became part of the liver surgery and liver transplantation program in the hospital's Department of Surgery.

Four years later, her enthusiasm renewed, De Villa returned to the Philippines and again attempted to start a liver transplant program, still in vain.

Hospitals in the Philippines were not willing to invest in the program because they felt that liver transplantation was a high-end treatment that Filipinos could not afford, hence, an uncertain profit for private hospitals.

A hospital "starting from scratch" and wants to be at par with world standards in liver transplantation would need at least P50 million to get a liver transplant program going, De

Villa said.

"It's a very demanding specialty that requires high technical expertise. There were attempts to put up liver transplant programs, but they failed because of the lack of means and manpower," she said.

First liver transplant in RP

The first live donor liver transplant (LDLT) in Manila was performed in 1996 at the NKI by a team from Taiwan assisted by Filipino surgeons, but the child died 40 days after the operation. A more recent LDLT was done at the PGH this year, but the patient also died three days after the operation.

The World Health Organization (WHO) in the Western Pacific region, which counts the Philippines as its member, accounts for half the global deaths due to hepatitis B. Everyday, 890 people in the region die from hepatitis-B-related causes, according to the WHO.

In the Philippines, one-tenth of the population or about eight million people are active hepatitis B carriers. Hepatitis B is the most common cause of liver cancer, the second most common cancer among Filipino men and the seventh among Filipino women.

One in every 10,000 to 15,000 live births in the world

has biliary atresia, a potentially lethal condition in which the person fails to develop an adequate pathway for bile to drain from the liver to the intestine. End-stage liver disease due to biliary atresia accounts for the majority of pediatric liver transplants globally.

Taiwan operation

Because Philippine hospitals could not support a liver transplant operation, De Villa has had to bring her Filipino patients—mostly children from poor families who painstakingly raised the funds for years—to Taiwan for the actual surgery.

In January 2005, De Villa came closest to doing a liver transplant in the Philippines courtesy of the joint program of the Makati Medical Center and PGH, but the patient, 2-year-old Krishna Luciano, became too weak to be operated on, and De Villa's team did not proceed with the transplant.

Last year, De Villa received an invite to join the QMH, whose liver transplant program rivals the best in the world.

"My thinking was: Hong Kong is near; I can help my patients from here," she said.

Three Filipino children—Louie Perez, Mark Mendoza and MJ Sultan—have already undergone successful liv-

er transplantation at the QMH since the Filipino doctor arrived in February 2006. The operation cost each of them around P5 million to P6 million.

"It's still too expensive for the average Filipino family. The real and lasting solution is to start a program there (Philippines) and find a hospital to support it all the way," De Villa said.

On these occasions, the doctor unpacks her yet unfulfilled

dream for Filipinos with liver conditions.

"Eventually, I want to go back to the Philippines. My dream really is to set up a sustainable program for liver transplantation there," she said.

(NOTE: Those who wish to help Filipino liver patients coming to Hong Kong may deposit their donations to HSBC (Hong Kong) current account no. 503 199085-001.)

Real Sunkist Lemon from fruit to tea.

Sunkist Real Sunkist Lemon

Beat this!

P13.80 SRP per 500mL

Sunkist is a registered trademark of Sunkist Growers, Inc., Shafter, Calif. 91300

Baguio entrepreneur's road to success began in Saudi Arabia

By **Karlo Jose R. Pineda**
Contributor

LOOKING BACK, CONSTRUCTION entrepreneur Mario "Jun" Alzona Jr. says his road to success began in the deserts of Saudi Arabia, where he had gone in 1980 as an overseas contract worker.

Jun, recently named "Inspiring Baguio Entrepreneur" by the Philippine Center for Entrepreneurship and a recipient of the city's "Most Outstanding Business Enterprises" award, was four years out of college and restless over what he felt was a dead-end corporate job when he decided to head for the Middle East.

Benguet Corporation, one of the biggest mining companies operating in the country, had hired him as a staff member of its Engineering Design Department barely a week after he graduated from St. Louis University in 1976 with a degree in Mechanical Engineering.

But despite what seemed to be a rightful break for someone who ranked in the Top 20 in the M.E. board exam, Jun felt things were not really going his way.

"Almost four years had passed when I told myself, wala dito [(my success) is not here]," he said. He felt he did



Engineer Mario Jun' Alzona says he returned home from Dhahran with boxes full of photocopied books, and a new perspective on construction management

ALZONA in Saudi Arabia in 1980.

not quite fit in.

Father didn't own house

Added Jun, "My father was also an employee in the same company. He took care of the financial matters in Baguio. And I saw it unsatisfactory that his term was about to expire yet still he did not even own a house."

He briefly tried working in

other Philippine companies, including Napocor and Westinghouse, which were involved in the construction of the Bataan Nuclear Plant.

Eventually, Jun landed a job as project planner and cost engineer in ARAMCO (Arabian American Oil Co.), under contract with Flour Arabia Ltd., one of the largest contractors in the

world at that time.

He stayed in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia for more than two years, working on million-dollar projects.

Jun now attributes most of his engineering knowledge to this Saudi experience. It provided him exposure to other branches

BAGUIO/A24

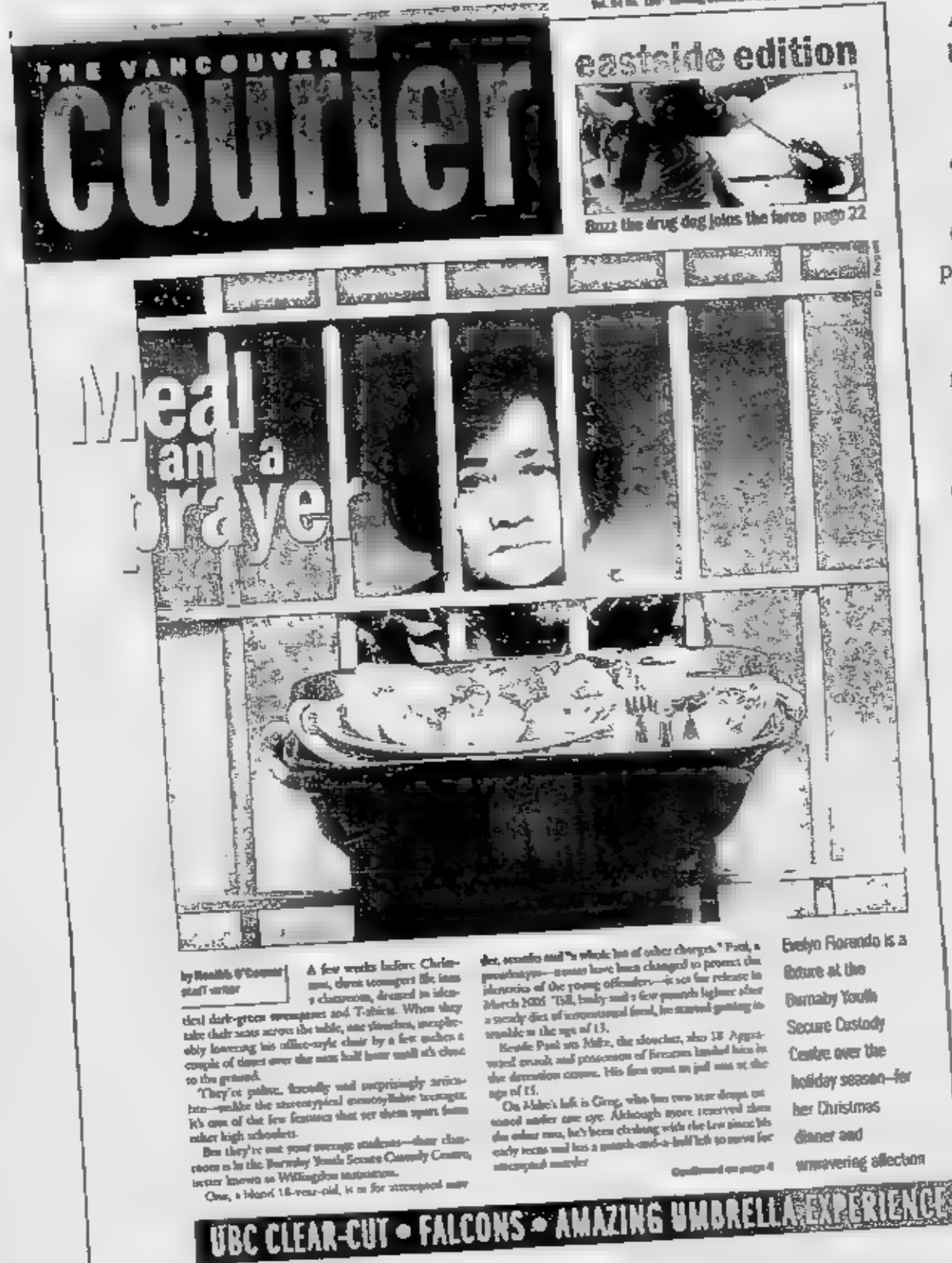
Christmas behind bars: Love begets love

By Evelyn Florendo
Contributor

IT WAS IN NOVEMBER 1984 when I read the story about some young offenders at the Willingdon Youth Detention Centre committing suicide by hurting and slashing themselves. I was moved by the report written by Anne Rees and Barbara McLintok of the Province Newspaper. I did not waste any time visiting the Office of the Ombudsman who was investigating the report at that time. The Ombudsman gave me more information about the situation at the center and referred me to the director of the center, Gordon Hogg. I called the center and told Hogg about why I was calling and said that I would like to do something for the children at the center. Hogg told me he would get back to me. I waited for almost two weeks.

Oath of secrecy

Finally, I was called to come to Hogg's office, which I did right away, to hear what he had to say. I was questioned about my real intentions and what I was planning to do for the children. I said that I was a widow with four teenagers, felt lucky that despite being a single mom and a full-time employee, none of my four children landed in prison. Seeing that I was sincere in my intentions, the director read some notes about what is required of someone to be involved with children at the center. He asked me if I understood those expectations, and I readily replied "Yes." I took the oath of secrecy administered by the director. Driving back home I started planning the first Christmas at Willingdon Youth Detention Centre. I filed for three weeks vacation, as I needed the time to buy the



A widow has been helping youth offenders experience a memorable Christmas in prison the past 24 years in Canada, feeling lucky that none of her four children had ever landed in jail

the center. When we arrived, the security guards were waiting to take us to each cell where the children were asked to line up to receive their gift. As I handed them their bags, I gave them a hug and whispered those magic words "I love you."

I remember one 12-year-old boy who received his bag first. He waited for a chance to talk to me. When everyone had gotten their presents, this young boy approached, gave me a hug and said "Thank you very much, Evelyn, this is the first time I ever received a Christmas present in my life." I did not know that he got a cheap watch in his bag. We went to the next cell, where the boys were waiting for their turn, gave them their gift bags and finally, the cell where the children with slash marks on their arms, legs and faces were staying. What a sight! I looked at the security guards and they looked back with approval indicating that it was OK.

Electrified

One by one the boys came forward as their names were called. This time Ernest handed the gift bags while I hugged and whispered, "I love you," to the boys. I felt a different sensation in their body as each one hugged me back, I felt electrified. What a feeling!—Maybe they had not had a chance to be hugged by their own parents. I was numbed when they each thanked me. There was silence in the car when we were going home.

Finally Ernest said, "Mommy, you gave those children a beautiful Christmas." I was in tears all the way home.

For 24 years since then, there has been Christmas in prison for the least fortunate children who are victims of circumstances beyond their control. Christmas is a season of sharing and caring; the many beautiful donors, volunteers, staff and special guests have shared with me the real meaning of Christmas with their generous moral support. We have really touched and made a difference in the lives of those young children as shown by the gratitude on their faces.

THE AUTHOR
In a December
2003 issue of
The Vancouver
Courier

Illustration
by
Garcia

gifts and food and plan the program. It was in December 1984 when my first Christmas in prison began.

There were 67 children, the majority of whom were boys. They were supervised by their

security guards as we had the "help yourself dinner" by the hallway. You could tell everyone felt at home, they were so happy saying that the food and drinks were different from the daily meals in prison. Almost all the food was eaten. We had

a short program, after which the children were sent back to their cells. I announced that I would be back the next morning with their gifts. When I arrived home, I started putting the toiletries, playing cards, sports magazines, comics,

chocolates and greeting cards in the bags for 70 children. There were barely enough goodies for the gift bags.

First ever Christmas gift

On Christmas morning, I asked my son Ernest to come and help me bring the gifts to

Another year, another ray of hope

MANY REGISTERED NURSES and other workers are still in the Philippines despite the approval of their employment petitions and all are asking why no visas are being issued to them. Professionals and skilled workers are also at a loss on why no H1B visas are available despite valid job offers from US employers.

A significant number of US hospitals face a lack of nurses. This shortage compels many of these facilities to close down or to reduce the number of patients that they serve to limit their exposure to liabilities that may arise due to their inability to handle patients competently.

On the other hand, the Bush administration increased its enforcement of immigration laws against illegal aliens and employers hiring illegal workers. It has also implemented increases in filing fees of immigration petitions. And, there is now an increase in visa fees (including B1/B2 tourist visas) from \$100 to \$131 per application.

What are we really looking at in terms of immigration policy in the United States for the coming year? Will it really be a secure border policy or a legalization of 12 million undocumented immigrants already in the US?

The year that was

When the 110th US Congress opened in January 2007, our hopes were high that the Democrat-dominated Congress would support the passage of the Comprehensive Immigration Reform Act. Bills were introduced in both houses of Congress proposing a comprehensive immigration reform.

When the proposed bill was heard on the Senate committee, there was a very strong opposition to the bill by conservative legislators. The proposed Comprehensive Immigration Reform bill was heard twice. In both sessions the bill was defeated. The US Senate killed the bill that was supposed to provide the



IMFO
Lourdes
Santos
Tancinco

much-needed amendments to a broken US immigration system.

Since the beginning of this year, retrogression set in and there were no more visas for registered nurses. There was actually a very strong advocacy in the Comprehensive Immigration Reform bill to exempt all registered nurses from the US visa limitations. However, when the proposed Comprehensive Immigration Reform bill was killed in Congress, the proposal to give more visas for US-bound nurses also died with it. There are thousands of registered nurses who are currently waiting for their visas. Unless there is a fix in the quota set for skilled workers, the registered nurses continue to face the adverse ef-

fects of retrogression.

Although it has always been the policy of the US to attract the skilled workers, there is for now no venue for the skilled workers to come to the US without facing a long delay. The H1B professional working visas are limited to only 65,000 visas per year. On April 1, 2007, the first day of filing for H1B professional workers, the visa quota was met when more than 150,000 applications were received by the US Immigration Service. Thus, more than 85,000 applications had to be returned to the petitioning employers and these large numbers of professionals were not processed for visas to work in the US this fiscal year. Many of these rejected professionals hopefully found work in other countries.

Family petitions by Filipino World War II veterans were also affected lack of action on the Comprehensive Immigration Reform bill. A special legislation was introduced by veterans'

supporters in Congress proposing that family petitions by the aging Filipino veterans be exempted from the visa quota limit making visas immediately available to their families. Again, this proposed immigration legislation has not yet passed in the US Congress.

Hope or despair?

Next year, there will be more law enforcers working under the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). There was an increase in the filing fee applications and there will be more increases in the visa applications as well. With the money they raise, a big percentage of this is going to be used for more enforcement activities and more raids by ICE. Unfortunately, we do not see much improvement in the way the visas are being issued. In fact, it is still taking several months for FBI background checks causing delays in adjudication of applications.

There will always be chal-

enges and opportunities to those who search for it. Despite the poor outlook, there will always be a ray of hope for what is yet to come. There is nothing worse than the racial oppression suffered by earlier migrants to the US and it puts a proper perspective to the improvements that have already been made since then. With the health care crisis just getting worse because of a lack of skilled workers, it is hoped that the US Congress cannot continue to ignore a fix for the lack of visas.

As an immigrant advocate, I try to keep my passion for practicing immigration law alive and continue to hope for better immigration legislation next year. Hope that coming immigration legislation reflects the wisdom behind US immigration law which is to recognize economic reality and foster family unity in US immigration.

(Tancinco may be reached at law@tancinco.com or at 02-887 7177)

Baguio entrepreneur's road to success began in Saudi

From page A23

of engineering.

American way

"I'm a mechanical engineer but I was given a chance to walk another path, which was more on civil engineering. I also learned construction management, the American way, which up to now, has been a key advantage in running my business," said Jun, who has since attended an international management seminar in Europe.

And because there was nothing much to do in Saudi after work hours, Jun found himself

photocopying construction books shelved in his office, hoping to learn every theory behind the tasks he did.

"Xeroxing materials was free in the office so I grabbed the opportunity to widen my knowledge," he recalled. "When I went back home, I didn't bring a TV set, instead I brought boxes full of photocopy books."

Back in Baguio, Jun was dead set on setting up his own business. In 1985, he teamed up with another fellow engineer who had also worked in Saudi, Ernesto Panis. The partnership

venture was called R. C. Panis Construction.

This eventually became the engineering, contracting and real estate developing company, ALPA-PCM, Inc.

Mormon church, parks

He remembers their first job was to complete a two-barrack building for the Philippine Military Academy that a previous contractor had left unfinished.

They worked hard on every job: From Mormon churches to memorial parks and subdivisions. In time, the company's

own La Trinidad office was constructed without need of a bank loan, he said.

Jun has since established several other companies: Calgry Philippines Inc., Topland Marketing & Management Corp., Realeza Development Corp., 2BIG Cordillera Resources and Development Corp., and his most recent, IConnect B-Services Inc., a call center company which is now emerging as a strong player in the local industry.

His 17-page resume now mentions that he was a past president and director of the Baguio

Chamber of Commerce and Industry, as well as the Rotary Club of Baguio South.

Model for today's youth

His recognition as "Inspiring Baguio Entrepreneur" by the Philippine Center for Entrepreneurship, was part of the Go Negosyo Teen Edition, which holds him up as a model for today's youth.

Jun is also associated with various organizations like the International Real Estate Federation, North Luzon Area of the Philippines-Bahrain Business Council,

Asean Association for Planning and Housing, and Baguio Non-government organizations (BANGO) Multi-sectoral Council.

In addition, Jun has formed a foundation of his own, the Philippine Entrepreneurs Service Organization (Peso), which aims to support small and medium enterprises (SMEs).

"I see the future of the country's economy in SMEs," says the softspoken OFW-turned-millionaire, sitting comfortably behind his office desk in a casual yellow shirt and blue jeans.

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Guasco

Bhutto slay may signal trouble for Musharraf

By David Rohde

FORMER PRIME MINISTER BENAZIR BHUTTO'S death raises the specter of prolonged political conflict between Pakistan's president, Pervez Musharraf, and the country's opposition, according to Pakistani and American analysts. How he handles the next several days could determine whether nationwide antigovernment protests erupt.

"I see a lot more trouble for Musharraf in the near future," said Hasan Askan Ruzvi, a leading Pakistani political analyst.

Bhutto's party, the largest in the country, is now leaderless, and many of its members already blame Musharraf's government for her death.

Musharraf remains deeply unpopular after declaring a

state of emergency in November and suppressing Bhutto and his other political opponents.

Meanwhile, Nawaz Sharif, another prominent opposition leader, is scrambling to reorganize his party.

How events unfold in the coming days and weeks lies largely in the hands of Musharraf, Bhutto's husband and Sharif,

according to Pakistani analysts. But it is Musharraf who faces the largest potential threat.

Analysts said the assassination would hurt Musharraf politically and place him in one of the most difficult positions of his turbulent eight years in power.

At the core of Musharraf's problem is a widespread perception that he did too little to protect Bhutto or that his government carried out the killing itself, analysts said.

Demonstrations are expected to peak at Bhutto's funeral on Friday outside Karachi. Her husband, Asif Ali Zardari, could call for restraint or for further protests.

If Musharraf declares a state of emergency to rein in protests, he is likely to meet stronger popular opposition than he did when he

declared emergency powers in November, analysts said.

If Musharraf proceeds with nationwide elections scheduled for Jan. 8, he is likely to encounter street protests as well. Analysts said that holding the elections would be seen as an effort by him to take advantage of Bhutto's death.

Without her, Bhutto's party, the Pakistan Peoples Party, will struggle to compete effectively in the elections. Bhutto was the party's chairperson for life and tightly controlled its functions, analysts said.

After Bhutto was killed, Sharif announced that his party would withdraw from the elections. Visiting the hospital where Bhutto was pronounced dead, Sharif vowed to assume her mantle as the main leader of the opposition to Musharraf. **NYT**



JOHN Cosgrove (left) helps a woman shred papers on Dec. 28 in New York. From cellular telephones to photos of ex-fiancées or husbands, people disappointed by the passed year threw away the bad memories of 2007 into a shredding machine installed in Times Square. **AFP**

New Yorkers invited to shred '07 regrets

NEW YORK—THINK OF YOUR worst memories of 2007: an ex-boyfriend, a bad medical report, stacks of unpaid bills.

On Friday, the embarrassed and aggrieved fed the photos and documents that triggered such regrets into a giant shredder in Times Square, where a city garbage truck waited to cart them off forever.

"I feel liberated!" exclaimed Khadija Jackson after shoving a picture of her ex-fiance with his new girlfriend into the industrial-size machine.

The 23-year-old home health aide said she found the picture on his MySpace page after getting a call from the girlfriend informing her that "I'm his new woman. Leave him alone."

For those who arrived empty-handed, the people at the Times Square Business Alliance provided stationery to write down their gripes.

Maggie Weber, 74, visiting from Ecuador, seized the opportunity to banish three unpleasant thoughts: her high cholesterol, high blood pressure and bills.

Her daughter, Geraldine Weber, 36, wrote down the name of her husband, from whom she hopes to be divorced by next year.

For those who brought items that could not be shredded, a sledgehammer was provided.

Joe Costarella of Staten Island used it to demolish a tall garbage can from his kitchen with an opening too narrow to scrape his plate.

"My wife and I always argue about it," he said. "So she said, if I get her a new trash can, I can wreck this one."

Alan Manevitz, a psychiatrist at New York Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center, said such banishing rituals can be helpful.

"In every culture, people are able to confess and admit their regrets," he said. "And there's a point in time when you can forgive yourself and turn a new page."

Tim Tompkins, president of the business group that sponsored the event, said he got the idea from a roommate who told him about a New Year's tradition of scribbling bad memories on a piece of paper, then stuffing it into a doll and burning it.

"New Year is always about looking back, about reflection, but it's also about renewal, looking forward and letting go of things," he said. **AP**

Japan dailies welcome thawing of ties with China

TOKYO—JAPANESE NEWSPAPERS Saturday applauded a thawing of ties between Japan and China following Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda's visit to Beijing and despite a simmering dispute over maritime gas fields.

The influential daily Asahi Shimbun hailed the four-day trip as successful and pointed to a "leap forward" in bilateral ties between the Asian powers.

"The time has come when we can talk about the 'leap forward,'" the newspaper said in an editorial referring to a phrase that Fukuda has used.

China cut high-level ties with Japan during the 2001-2006 premiership of Junichiro Koizumi due to his visits to Tokyo's Yasukuni Shrine, which venerates war criminals who invaded China, alongside another 2.5 million war dead.

But Fukuda and his predecessor, Shinzo Abe, have stayed away from the shrine, paving the way for the dramatic thaw in bilateral relations that will be capped when Chinese President Hu Jintao visits Japan next year.

Fukuda, on his first visit to China since taking office in September, separately met with Wen and Hu on Friday as the two nations pledged to build on their rapidly warming ties.

The leaders laid the groundwork for closer cooperation in trade, climate change and other fields but the dispute over the gas fields was unresolved.



WHEN PREMIERS PLAY CATCH—Japanese Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda (right) and Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao laugh after they played catch with a baseball in Beijing's Diaoyutai State Guesthouse on Dec. 29. **REUTERS**

"There was no settlement to the issue of gas fields in the East China Sea. But there is no reason to be pessimistic. It is quite natural that pending issues cannot be solved just by rallying cries," Asahi said.

The leading business daily Nikkei was more skeptical.

Although it agreed "top-level

diplomacy" appeared back on track, it lamented that "the pending issue over gas fields has been virtually put off."

Eleven rounds of negotiations since 2004 have made little progress, with China rejecting the maritime border which Japan considers a starting point for discussions.

"Although nearly five million people from Japan and China visit each other's country every year nowadays, mutual confidence in a true sense has not been enhanced," Nikkei continued. "We wish to see a first step in a 'leap forward' in Japan-China relations through steady exchanges at various levels." **APF**

Beijing says free elections possible in HK in 2017

HONG KONG—CHINA RULED out full democracy for Hong Kong in 2012 on Saturday, ignoring the majority opinion in the former British colony, but said it may pick its leader by universal suffrage at the following opportunity, in 2017.

Full democracy for forming Hong Kong's legislature would follow in 2020, the standing committee of China's parliament, the National People's Congress (NPC), said.

Chief Executive Donald Tsang welcomed the ruling, saying it offered an opportunity and that Hong Kongers should shelve their differences and work together to hammer out the details.

But the city's vocal prodemocracy camp, a key voting block in the legislative council, was disappointed at what it saw as yet another delay. It organized a protest that drew a few hundred people to grounds outside the historic legislative building and they then marched in downtown Hong Kong.

"We must treasure this hard-earned opportunity," Tsang told reporters. "I sincerely urge everybody to lay down all disagreements and start moving toward conciliation and consensus."

The decision to rule out 2012 was effectively the NPC's second veto of a possible date for universal suffrage after a 2004 ruling that quashed hopes for full elections in 2007.

However, the NPC's statement that Hong Kong "may" have universal suffrage in 2017—the 20th anniversary of Hong Kong's return from British to Chinese rule—marked Beijing's clearest indication yet as to when full democracy might finally germinate.

Democratic legislators have been calling for a timetable for democracy, but Civic Party lawmaker Audrey Eu said the pledge to consider full democracy in 2017 was not a promise to allow it.

"It's an expectedly disappointing decision," she said. "A lot of people concentrate on the reference to 2017 and think there's hope, but to say you may have universal suffrage in that year doesn't mean it's going to happen ... there's no guarantee that it won't be vetoed again." **Reuters**

The hanging at the start of the Muslim festival of Eid al-Adha had further deepened the rift between Sunnis and Shiites opened up by the bombing of a revered Shiite shrine by suspected al-Qaida militants in February last year, he added.

Under the Muslim calendar, the anniversary of the execution has already passed more

than a week ago. Saddam was hanged just minutes before the start of Eid al-Adha which Sunni Muslims this year celebrated on Dec. 19.

To mark the day, dozens of Sunni supporters gathered at Saddam's graveside in his home village of Awja, near the central city of Tikrit, to lay flowers and pay their respects.

Even US President George W. Bush, who hailed Saddam's capture in late 2003, sharply criticized the manner of his execution.

In an interview with PBS television on Jan. 16 he said the

Australian 'Taliban' released from jail

ADELAIDE, AUSTRALIA—FORMER Guantanamo Bay inmate David Hicks walked free from an Australian jail after completing a sentence for supporting terrorism Saturday, vowing not to let down those who got him home.

More than six years after he was captured in Afghanistan, the so-called "Aussie Taliban" was escorted from Adelaide's maximum security Yatala jail past a media throng broadcasting live images of his release.

It was the public's first chance to see the 32-year-old former Muslim convert, who remains the only detainee held at the controversial Guantanamo Bay military base in Cuba to be convicted on terrorism charges.



HICKS being escorted out of the Yatala high security prison in Adelaide on Dec. 29. **AP**

Wearing jeans and a green polo top and appearing chubbier than photos taken before his capture in late 2001, a smiling Hicks met supporters and was immediately driven to an undisclosed location.

Hicks' lawyer David McLeod read a statement on his behalf which said he was looking forward to "quiet time" with his family and friends. **AFP**

One year after, Saddam hanging seen as false start for new Iraq

By Sylvie Briand

BAGHDAD—BRINGING SADDAM Hussein to book for the crimes of his regime was supposed to symbolize the restoration of the rule of law after decades of tyranny, but instead his hanging a year ago on Sunday drew accusations of victors' justice.

Footage captured on a mobile telephone of his executioners taunting him before putting him to death sparked criticism even from the US sponsors of Iraq's new Shiite-led government.

For the Sunni Arab minority

that provided the bedrock of Saddam's support, the hangmen's chants of the name of a Shiite leader whose militia has become a symbol of fear since the 2003 invasion made the execution seem like an act of sectarian retribution.

"It was certainly naive to believe that a court setup under American occupation could lay the foundation stone of the sort of new justice system and democratic regime that Iraq had never previously known," said Baghdad university professor Nabil Mohammed Yunis.

In a country whose political history has been punctuated by coups, assassinations and wars ever since independence in 1932, "things take time to change," said Yunis.

However, Iraq's new leaders were desperate to be rid of Saddam who remained a threat to their newfound power as long as he remained alive.

An Iraqi teacher who would give only his first name Omar said that the hanging of Saddam had been widely regarded by Iraqis as sectarian revenge.

"This humiliating execution

was not viewed as the just punishment of a dictator but as an act of revenge by the Shiite government against the Sunnis who dominated the former Baath party," he said.

The hanging at the start of the Muslim festival of Eid al-Adha had further deepened the rift between Sunnis and Shiites opened up by the bombing of a revered Shiite shrine by suspected al-Qaida militants in February last year, he added.

Under the Muslim calendar, the anniversary of the execution has already passed more

than a week ago. Saddam was hanged just minutes before the start of Eid al-Adha which Sunni Muslims this year celebrated on Dec. 19.

To mark the day, dozens of Sunni supporters gathered at Saddam's graveside in his home village of Awja, near the central city of Tikrit, to lay flowers and pay their respects.

Even US President George W. Bush, who hailed Saddam's capture in late 2003, sharply criticized the manner of his execution.

In an interview with PBS television on Jan. 16 he said the

hanging resembled a sectarian "revenge killing" and had made it harder to end the deadly violence plaguing Iraq.

Bush said the execution had "reinforced doubts" about Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki and made it clear that his fledgling government "has still got some maturation to do."

The US president said he had been "pleased" with the trials of Saddam and two top aides, who were also executed, but that the Iraqi government "fumbled" in carrying out the death sentence against Saddam. **AFP**



WORLD-CLASS PINOYS, PINARANGALAN NG BAGONG BAYANI FOUNDATION, INC. AT NG GLOBE

Pangungulila. 'Di kasiguraduhan ng kinabukasan.
Pag-iisa sa 'di kilalang bansa.

Ilan lang yan sa mga hamong hinaharap araw-araw ng mga kababayan nating OFWs. Ngunit sa gitna ng kahirapang ito, tunay pa ring pinapatunayan ng ating mga kababayan ang kabayanihan ng dugong Pilipino.

At ang kabayanilang-yan ang ipinagpupunyagi ng Bagong Bayani Awards na ginanap noong ika-12 ng Disyembre sa Palasyo ng Malacañang kung saan isa-isang kinamusta ni Pangulong Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo ang mga nanalo kasama sina Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) Secretary Arturo Brion at Bagong Bayani Foundation, Inc. President Capt. Gregorio Oca.

Pagkatapos nito, nagpunta na sa Association of Marine Officers & Seamen Union of the Philippines (AMOSUP) sa Intramuros, Manila ang mga nanalo, kung saan iginawad sa kanila ang kani-kanilang mga parangal.

Layunin ng Bagong Bayani Awards na kilalanin ang mga katangi-tanging kontribusyon, serbisyo at tulong ng mga Pinoy OFWs sa kanilang mga katrabaho, kapamilya at sa bansa.

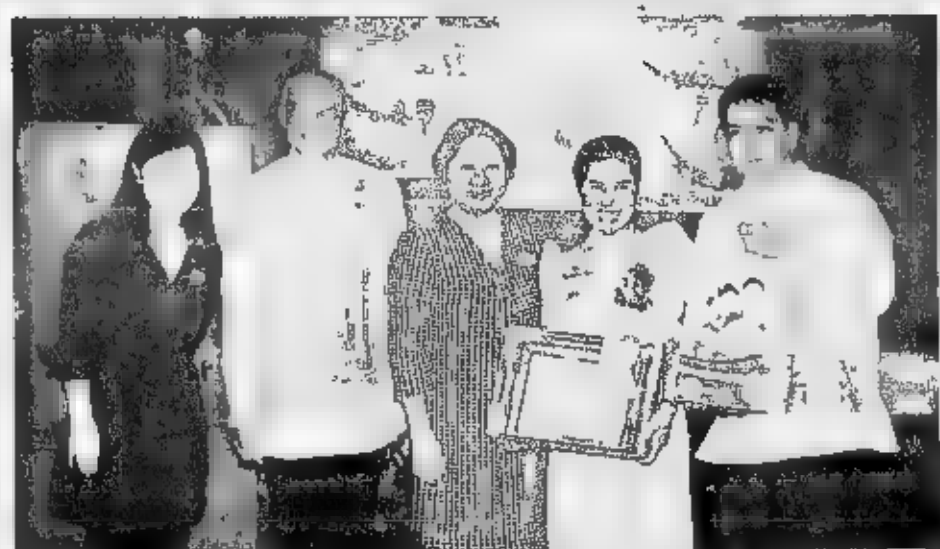
Mayroong apat na kategorya ang Bagong Bayani Awards; ang Bagong Bayani Award for Outstanding Employee, Community Service, Culture and the Arts at ang Blas F. Ople Award para sa Natatanging Bagong Bayani.

Blas F. Ople Award para sa
Natatanging Bagong Bayani
Mary Jane Pajarillo-Tupas, 41, Saudi Arabia
Director of Nursing

Patunay ang unanimous na nominasyon mula sa Philippine Labor Office sa Al-Khobar, mula sa kanyang amo at mga katrabaho sa Mohammad Dossary Hospital sa Saudi Arabia ang dedikasyon ng Director of Nursing na si Pajarillo-Tupas. Aktibo sa mga medical mission at socio-civic activities, nakumbinsi rin niya ang ospita, na magbigay ng libreng gamot at tulong sa mga OFWs na inabuso ng kanilang mga amo.

Lahat ng mga kwento rila, iisa lang ang nais patunayan. Na sa harap ng anumang hamon, ang dugong Pilipino ay dugong Bayani. Kaya tuluy-tuloy ang suporta ng Bagong Bayani Foundation, Inc., DOLE, POEA, OWWA, Globe at iba pang miyembro ng pribadong sektor sa lahat ng OFWs, saan man sila maparoon. Sa pamamagitan ng iba't ibang serbisyo at produkto, napakadali na para sa Pinoy na maabot ang mundo. Bisitahin ang www.bagongbayani.org para sa karagdagang impormasyon.

BLAS F. OPLE AWARD PARA SA NATATANGING BAGONG BAYANI



Muling pinarangalan nina POEA Administrator Rosalinda Dimagilis-Baldoz at Bagong Bayani Foundation, Inc. Vice President Rene Cristobal si Mary Jane Pajarillo-Tupas sa AMOSUP, Intramuros.

BAGONG BAYANI AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING EMPLOYEE



CHITAEI CARMONA,
54, KUWAIT
SUPERINTENDENT



VITO DE RAYA,
58, BRUNEI
EDUCATION OFFICER



EDUARDO GUMATCO,
55, UNITED ARAB EMIRATES
SENIOR HOUSE PLANT MANAGER



JOSEFINA VILLAREY,
46, KUWAIT
PERSONAL SECRETARY



ROLANDO OCAMPO,
53, SAUDI ARABIA
RESTAURANT MANAGER



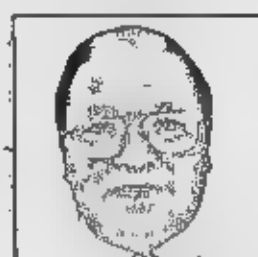
CAPT. CUADRATO GIDOC GASPI,
48, SEAFARER



JESUS SUMOOK,
35, SEAFARER

and HAZEL REPOSO, 30, USA, SERVICE WORKER

BAGONG BAYANI AWARD FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE



ROBERTO ABELLA,
65, LIBYA
SENIOR ENGINEER



FRANCISCO ROQUE,
59, KUWAIT
LANDSCAPE ENGINEER



RICHARD GABRIEL,
42, ITALY
SCULPTOR

BAGONG BAYANI AWARD FOR CULTURE AND THE ARTS



WHAT'S INSIDE

Boxer Roy Jones Jr. trains with Knicks /A29



Sunday SPORTS

Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres Assistant Editor Francis T.J. Ochoa Website: www.inquirer.net/sports
Text us your feedback: inquirer.spt name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 263 (Smart) E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph

Patriots shoot for NFL's first 16-0 record /A32



Perfection foiled

Harbour Centre ends Hapee dream run, forges decider

GAME TODAY (Rizal Memorial Coliseum)
3 p.m. Hapee vs Harbour Centre
(Game 3-Finals)

By Jasmine W. Payo

HAPEE'S BID FOR A PERFECT ending wasn't even within arms' reach.

Harbour Centre ended Hapee's spectacular 12-game winning streak with a commanding second-half performance for a 73-59 rout yesterday to forge a winner-take-all PBL V-Go Extreme Energy Drink Cup championship showdown.

Edwin Asoro took charge in a key third-quarter run to break open a close first-half encounter in Game 2 of the best-of-three Finals series at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

"Those who played so-so in the first game all stepped up," said Batang Pier coach Jorge Gallent.

The rest of Batang Pier rode on the momentum that Asoro, who shot a game-high 21 points, created via a 7-0 surge that gave Harbour Centre a 61-52 spread heading into the final five minutes.

Today, it's Harbour Centre that hopes to claim a piece of history by shooting for an unprecedented fourth straight crown in the final game of their series at 3 p.m. at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

Gallent said a well-prepared Batang Pier showed up to spoil the Complete Protectors' campaign for a flawless season.

"Our adjustment was on their pick and roll," he said. "We couldn't stop their pick and roll in Game 1 that's why Reed (Jundilla) had 21 points.



TY TANG (right) and the Batang Pier bring Earn Saguindal and the Complete Protectors to their knees.

We planned to minimize Reed, to bring his point output down."

Jundilla, who had 21 points in Hapee's 72-69 Game 1 victory, went scoreless in the final period after scoring 13 in the first three quarters.

The Complete Protectors had trouble getting off decent shots, with Norwood carrying most of the scoring load in the final canto.

"We also practiced their box-and-one, that was their adjustment in the first game," said Gallent. "We had plays for their box-and-one."

Solomon Mercado, the Fil-Arn guard who bungled crucial free throws in Game 1, made up for the boo-boo with 10 markers, six boards, four assists and four steals.

PERFECTION/A28

Nat'l divers off to China

By Marc Anthony Reyes

FIVE NATIONAL DIVERS LED BY SOUTH-east Asian Games golden girl Shuela Mae Perez will fly to China on Jan. 3 to start their six-month training and preparation for the last Olympic-qualifying event.

Perez, 22, will spearhead the crack team also composed of 2007 SEA Games gold medalists Jaime Asok and Niño Carog, and silver winners Jaime Fabriga and Zardo Domenios, according to head coach Rommel Kong.

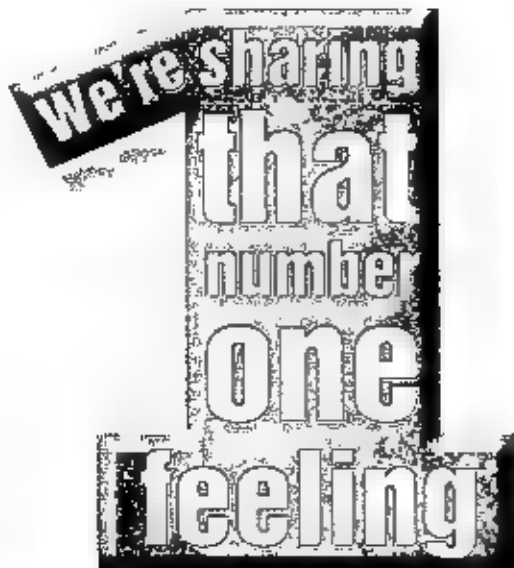
Joining them to Sian City in Shanxi

province are assistant coach Laurence Iporong and Chinese mentor Zhang Desu, who has been credited for the growth of Philippine diving starting with the 2005 SEA Games where the country won five gold medals.

Sian City, famous for its centuries-old terracotta, is also the training ground for world-class divers, including reigning Olympic champion Xian Liang.

Kong said they will train for six weeks there before gunning for Olympic berths in the World Cup of diving in February.

NAT'L/A28



Informing and inspiring Filipino readers for more than two decades through balanced news and fearless views, the Philippine Daily Inquirer has undoubtedly become the country's number 1 newspaper. We share this honor with you, our readers, and our heartfelt thank you for making the Inquirer a part of your daily reading habit.

As we celebrate our 22nd anniversary, Inquirer grants Number 1 wishes of 22 loyal readers - from a simple wish of meeting your local idol to an adventurous one like spending a weekend with your family in Palawan. Let us know what you really want. In 300 words or less, tell us.

- 1) How long have you been reading the Philippine Daily Inquirer?
- 2) What do you like most about the Inquirer, and we dare ask, what do you like least?
- 3) What is your number 1 wish that Inquirer can grant you, and why?

Promo Mechanics:

1) Answer the three (3) questions in a total of 300 words or less.

2) Choose one (1) way of sending your entry:

a) E-mail:

number1@inquirer.com.ph

b) Postal Mail:

Number 1 Promo
Marketing Department
Philippine Daily Inquirer
1893 China Road Avenue
Corner Yagor and Mascardo Streets
Makati City 1204

3) You may only send one (1) entry in the event that you send more than one entry. Inquirer will honor your first entry. All other entries will be disqualified.

4) Include the following information in your entry:

- a) Full name
- b) Residential address
- c) Landline number
- d) Mobile number
- e) Date of birth

5) Philippine Daily Inquirer will accept entries from 12:01 AM of December 9, 2007 to 11:59 PM of January 9, 2008 only.

6) As Philippine Daily Inquirer is on its 22nd year, twenty-two (22) best wishes will be chosen by a panel of Inquirer editors and executives.

7) Winners will be announced in Inquirer on January 22, and notified through postal mail.

8) Winners must present at least one (1) valid ID with photo (school, company, government) and the notification from the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

9) Prizes can be claimed at the Philippine Daily Inquirer head office.

10) Taxes will be paid by the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

11) Prizes not claimed within sixty (60) days from receipt of notification will be forfeited in favor of the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

12) Winners shall agree to have their names and photos published in the newspaper or announced in any media or manner of advertisement as the Philippine Daily Inquirer may deem appropriate.

13) In case of dispute, the Philippine Daily Inquirer's decision shall be final.

14) All employees of the Philippine Daily Inquirer, their relatives up to second degree of consanguinity or affinity, and all advertising agencies are not allowed to participate in this promo.

INQUIRER

From: Miggs

Bro, ryt ka
sa edsa, tas ikot
sa rolonda,
tas ryt 3rd
kanto left

Indika

mailigaw kang

lalawagan

mo siya

Sun-tawag lang yan!

Sige na, just call him para mahanap mo agad ang bahay niya. Anong oras mo man karlangan, unlimited ang Sun. Sa Sun lang meron nyan!

Mas nagkakaintindihan talaga 'pag unlimited ang tawagan.

Hotline: 395-8000 • www.suncellular.com.ph



THE YEAR THAT WAS

Billiards fails to take its cue

PHILIPPINE BILLIARDS SHOULD HAVE taken its cue from a fruitful 2006. Instead, the year 2007 became the calendar equivalent of scratches and dry breaks.

Ironically, the year got off on the right foot for the country's pool sharks with Efren "Bata" Reyes leading a 1-2-3 finish for the Philippines in the Derby City Classic Master of the Table Bonus last January in Louisville, Kentucky.

Compatriots Rodolfo "Boy Samson" Luat and Francisco "Django" Bustamante completed the Filipino trinity.

But everything seemed to spiral downward from thereon.

From the nation-hopping Asian Tour series to the prestigious World Pool Championship, Philippine bets struggled mightily against a foreign field that used to be cowed by their presence alone.

Ronnie Alcano gave the Philippines its brightest spot, winning the World 8-ball title in March, allowing him to hold at the same time world titles in both 8- and 9-ball events.

It was actually the second 8-ball crown for the 34-year-old lanky cue artist from Laguna.

Reyes, considered by many as the greatest pool player of all time, was the first Filipino to hold the world 8-ball title and the world 9-ball crown at the same time.

Alcano, who battled charges of child abuse in the middle of the year, also won the 8-ball event in the 24th Southeast Asian Games.

Rubilen Amit also made her mark in the international scene, finishing second in the Women's World 9-Ball Championship in Tao Yuan, Taipei, Taiwan. She lost to Xiao-Ting Pan of China in the finals to settle for the \$10,000 runner-up prize.

Still, Amit created the biggest stir in the tournament when she claimed the scalp of five-time champion Allison Fisher and two-time winner Ga-Young Kim of South Korea in the early rounds.

Despite the success of Alcano and Amit, billiards fans had their eyes on the Asian Tour and the World Pool Championship that the country was going to host.

Wiped out

As it turned out, there was little to look forward to.

After sweeping the tour last year, the Philippines failed to win a single leg this time.

The country sent its best players in the nation-hopping tour although Reyes, a multiple leg and three-time overall tour champion, didn't join along with Bustamante because of sponsorship clashes.

The two are endorsers of the San Miguel Corp., a rival company of Guinness—the

tour's title sponsor this year.

Lee Vann Cortez bowed to Chang Jung-ling, 5-11, in the opening leg at the Sultan Hotel in Jakarta, Indonesia.

They met again in the tour's grand final at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Bali, Indonesia with Jung reasserting his supremacy over Cortez, 11-8.

In between the Indonesia stops, the Filipinos failed to even reach the finals of the tour they dominated in the first four years.

"I don't know what hit us in the tour," said BSCP president Ernesto "Ernie" Fajardo. "I guess the law of averages caught up with us."

In the WPC, the talented Filipino pool players had no problem reaching the hill in major tournaments all season.

But they somehow found it hard to go over it.

Superman

A new name rose in the WPC with Roberto Gomez, nicknamed Superman, eliminated one favored foreign foe after another to reach the finals of the tournament and host the Filipino hopes of a victory on home soil.

In his path stood Englishman Daryl Peach. If ever there was any omen pointing to a disastrous finish, it was one seemingly trivial fact: Peach is a deadringer for Superman archnemesis Lex Luthor.

Gomez lost a nervy final, 17-15, one where it became apparent that the winner would be the competitor with the least mistakes.

"The nerves got the better of me," admitted Gomez. "I felt bad because I know that I let my countrymen down. But I'll make sure to make up for it in future events."

Perhaps the person who mirrored RP billiards' failures the most was the legendary Reyes.

The long-time icon of the sport everywhere in the world failed to make a dent after a strong run last year.

He was on fire last year, winning two legs and the overall championship in the Asian Tour, and claiming the title and the \$500,000 top prize in the International Pool Tour.

He also combined with Bustamante to top the inaugural World Cup of Pool.

But nagging pains on his fingers and occa-



sional shaking of hands proved too much to handle for the game's living legend.

He crashed out in the first round of the knockout phase in the WPC. He and Bustamante also bowed to eventual winners Li Hewen and Fu Jian-bo of China in the quarterfinals of the World Cup of Pool.

Billiards officials can only hope that next year will be a rosier one for the sport.

Marion Bernardino, Contributor

HE COULD have ended up a savior for the Philippine campaign in the World Pool Championships. But Roberto Gomez lost in the finals to Englishman Daryl Peach.

Long wait in caddy house ends for new RP team stars

By Musong R. Castillo

JUST THREE YEARS AGO, A NORMAL day for these young men started with a long wait in the caddy house—a wait for either their regular players or an even longer wait in a queue with over 100 other bag-rockers.

These days, a typical day for Jonel Ababa and Mark Fernando would start at the caddy house of the Calatagan in Batangas—not to wait for players, but to get their bags and their own caddies to prepare for their daily practice.

Former caddies Ababa and Fernando have gone from men with the bag to the stars of the show. They are just two of the newest faces who, in a way of speaking, now carry Philippine team hopes on their shoulders.

"A lot has changed. Before, I saw golf as a livelihood, now I see it as a career," Ababa, the reed-thin first winner of the National Caddies Open, told the Inquirer in Filipina. "In those days, I really didn't expect that I would ever get out of it (caddying)."

Ababa made the National team together with Fernando when the governing National Golf Association of the Philippines opened tryouts to almost everyone who could play decently. They, in the process, became the first products of the NGO to achieve the feat.

"The door has suddenly been opened for us," Fernando, a 26-year-old

father of three who has a rich golf lineage, said in Filipino. "The horizon has suddenly become boundless, now we are looking at a different career path."

The two represented the Philippines for the first time in the Nomura Cup in Taiwan in October before playing in the Putra Cup here and the Southeast Asian Games in Thailand earlier this month, coming up with performances that proclaimed them as the next stars of the RP squad.

"As long as we can keep this team



FERNANDO

(Anthony Fernando and Ferdinand Aunzo being the other members), I promise you we will win the SEA Games gold medal the next time (in 2009 in Laos)," Caloy Coscoluela, who skippered the squad to a silver medal finish in Thailand, said.

"The talent is there. We don't need to come up with other things in the program but to just continuously train the players we have," he added.

The Philippines finished sixth in the Putra Cup with Ababa winding up as the best Filipino performer while Fernando was brilliant in the Philippines' second place finish to Thailand in the Putra Cup.

Aunzo, also a former caddy who found his way into the national team via a different route, tied for fourth place individually in the SEAG.

"I have said this before, and I will say it again, the caddies will be the fu-

ture of Philippine golf," Tommy Manotoc, the former Putra Cup star who helped bankroll the NGO program together with sportsman-businessman Hermie Esguerra, said.

"Now that we have opened our eyes to it, we will start reaping the fruits of our labor."

The NGO is actually a low-budget program that now has 10 players, all of whom are being exposed to the toughest competitions here, like the Fil-Am in Baguio and the age-old Philippine Airlines Interclub, and abroad like the Hong Kong and Malaysian Opens.

Team Philippines suddenly found itself without a spearhead in the SEAG after Jay Bayron asked permission to try his luck in the lucrative Asian Tour.

And the SEAG-rookie laden team responded to the challenge, even taking the lead from eventual winner Thailand in the opening round at the Bonanza layout before settling for the much-deserved silver medal.

"It was as good as gold," Coscoluela said.

Perfection foiled

From page A27

"It could be a great year if we win," said team owner Mikee Romero, who also funded the Harbour-Philippine Team's golden performances in the 24th Southeast Asian Game Games this month and the Southeast Asian Basketball Association (Seaba) Championship last April.

Norwood paced the Complete Protectors with another all-around game of 15 points, 13

rebounds and four assists.

HARBOR CENTRE 73—Asoro 20, Tang 11, Mercado 10, Melendro 8, Ababa 6, Vergara 6, Taylor 4, Gonzales 4, Gazo 4.

HAPTEE 58—Norwood 15, Junilla 13, Espiritu 8, Borboran 5, Rodriguez 5, Grijaldo 5, Mercado 4, Das 2, Huganatan 2, Hermilda 0, Qanday 0, Vray 0, Saquindol 0.
Quarters: 19-22, 25-28, 54-49, 73-58

Nat'l divers off to China

From page A27

"We have a strong chance of sending all of them to the Olympics, barring any untoward incident like injury," Kong told the Inquirer.

The team was originally set to leave Dec. 26 but their visas will only be released on Jan. 2, according to Kong.

The RP squad failed to send anybody to the qualifying for the 2004 Athens Olympics be-

cause of infighting in the Philippine Amateur Swimming Association. It managed to send Perez and Asok to the 2000 Sydney Olympics.

The five divers, with ages ranging from 21-23, are no strangers to the place, having trained there for the World Cup in 2002. They will try to get into the Olympic roster in the first phase where all semifinalists of their respective events automatically qualify.

New Year's wishes this time around

MOST PEOPLE—especially if he or she is a celebrity—will probably be too shy to reveal the one thing that will make him/her truly happy.

So for this New Year column, to make my respondents more comfortable, I dispensed with the word "happiness" and stuck to the trite "What do you hope to achieve in the coming year" query.

Surprisingly, some of the answers were very interesting, if not downright revealing.

IN HUDDLE



Beth Celis

Athletics president Go Teng Kok was the first to respond. For 2008, Teng Kok wants to be less controversial, a resolution he committed himself to after his mother died early this year.

So far, GTK has been successful in keeping a low profile. He has been hardly read of or heard from this year. Since the POC elections are scheduled in 2008 after the Beijing Olympics, I asked GTK if he thinks he can maintain his resolve of staying out of controversies.

He admitted that he had been directly involved in the past two elections, and was, in a major way, responsible for the short tenure of Cristy Ramos as POC president and the installation of Cito Dayrit in her place.

He was also responsible for Dayrit backing out of the next elections where Peping Cojuangco emerged as the president. Obviously, Dayrit failed to live up to his backer's expectations, reason why he no longer got his support in the next polls.

GTK disclosed he has a "small" clout in the POC which could determine the outcome of an election.

While a lot of people predict a three-cornered fight for the presidency among the fencing head Dayrit, taekwondo's Robert Avenajado and either incumbent president Cojuangco or weightlifting's Monico Puentebella, GTK believes the grand finale will be a battle between Dayrit and Avenajado.

Among the four named, GTK thinks the two are the best candidates.

He admires Dayrit for his knowledge of Olympism and Avenajado for his handling of the Olympic Festival.

Looks like it's gonna be tough, but I hope GTK can stick to his resolve—for 2008 at least.

Next on the list of respondents was Red Bull owner George Chua, who is looking at an elusive All-Filipino crown for his Barakos this season. Despite a star-starved and injury-plagued lineup, George believes that with good teamwork, they can do it.

"No matter how great the odds, as long as the team plays with a big heart, nothing is impossible," he said.

At least, Talk 'N Text coach Derrick Pumaren did not specify an All-Filipino crown, avoiding a conflict of interest with Red Bull.

"I hope to be able to give Talk 'N Text a PBA championship," Manong texted.

TNT cager MacMac Cardona echoed his coach's prayer: "Sana lang po mabigyan namin ng championship si Mr. MVP (team owner Manny V Pangilinan), si Mr. Vargas (team governor Rocky Vargas) at si Mr. Lim (team manager Frankie Lim)."

Derrick's youngest brother Dindo, on the other hand, is aiming for another good showing for his UE Warriors in the next UAAP season.

"We're hoping to form another competitive lineup even if several key players will leave next season," Dindo said.

Completing the list of respondents were Ateneo coach Norman Black, who hopes to have as many championships as possible for the Blue Eagles; RP Ladies team coach Fritz Gaston who is looking forward to: One, the Seaba title should the tournament be held here; two, participation in Fiba 18-under this July; and three, formation of a semi-commercial league for women.

Meanwhile, injured Air21 cager Gary David hopes to get back to his old fighting form and most of all, for him not to get injured again. He also hopes that his team makes it to the finals this season.

While we're at it, may we all wish in my wish for next year and the years to come: Perfect health, physically, mentally and spiritually. Happy New Year to all!



SW CHAIRMAN'S CUP WINNER: Johnny Violeta shows off the certificate for an Alaska Cruise for two via Royal Caribbean and Korean Air he won as a major raffle prize in the Chairman's Cup of the Manila Southwoods Golf and Country Club recently. With him are (from left) Ms. Marilen Yaptangco president and CEO of Baron Travel which handles Royal Caribbean International, Korean Airlines regional manager Hong Jih, Hyun Jun Park, sales and finance Manager of Korean Airlines.

Chilling Celtics warning: The best is yet to come

BOSTON—THE BOSTON CELTICS WILL hit the new year with the NBA's best record and a belief that more is still to come.

"We haven't played our best basketball and I think most of the guys in this locker room will say that," veteran guard Ray Allen said recently after his team's home victory over the Orlando Magic.

Allen was right. The rejuvenated Celtics hit the road for a four-game Western swing in the five nights leading to the New Year determined to do much more.

The Celtics have recorded wins against Sacramento and Seattle to raise their record to 24-3 with Utah and the Los Angeles Lakers still to come.

"We're going to be so much better," said Boston coach Doc Rivers. "We have a chance to be, if we keep working on it, so much better than we are right now."

Those are scary words when you consider the record which included only one loss at home, a last-second decision to the Detroit Pistons on Dec. 19.

"We want to get to the point where we are perfect," said forward Paul Pierce. "We strive for perfection if we have that type of attitude going into the game."

"You know we aren't going to be perfect, but we can be close to it and that's the type of level we want to get to. Everybody has that mentality. We're never going to be satisfied."

"It's still early in the season. We still have a long way to go and we just keep challenging ourselves each and every day."

The man doing much of the challenging is newly acquired 10-times All-Star Kevin Garnett.

The fortunes of this once-proud franchise changed in four days over the summer, when Boston acquired Allen from Seattle and Garnett from Minnesota. A total of 10 players/draft picks went to those two teams (one other came back), and the Celtics were reborn.

In the glory years in the 1980s, Boston was led by its "Big Three" of Larry Bird, Kevin McHale and Robert Parish. Now, with the help of McHale, the Minnesota general manager who sent Garnett to Boston, there is a new "Big Three"—Garnett, Pierce and Allen.

There was no official nickname for the new trio, one suggestion calling them the "Boston Three Party," a play on words on the 1773 Boston Tea Party, one of the incidents which led to the Revolutionary War.

Garnett, freed from years of obscurity in Minnesota, is the leader.

In addition to averaging 18.9 points and 10.5 rebounds per game (Pierce was at 21.1 points, Allen 19.0), he was also getting shots for other people (3.6 assists) and leading the charge on the defensive end.

"I feel like if we play defense every single night we give ourselves a chance to win every single night," Garnett said. "We hold each other accountable



THE BOSTON THREE PARTY: (From left) Ray Allen, Paul Pierce and their "leader," Kevin Garnett.

for our defensive effort."

Rivers says having Garnett is like having another coach.

"It's not just his energy and attitude," Rivers said. "It's his focus that he enforces on everyone else. If someone misses a rotation, he beats me to the punch and that's nice."

One of the three Boston losses in the first 25 games came in Orlando on Nov. 18.



When the teams met again five weeks later in Boston, Garnett said. "You could see it the minute you came into the locker room" things would be different. Boston won 103-91 with four players—The Three Party and young Rayon Rondo—all scoring at least 20 points.

The Celtics evened the score with the Cleveland Cavaliers, who beat them in overtime last month, with a



Dec. 2 win, but that came with Cavs star LeBron James injured. They get another shot at the Pistons, still regarded as the team to beat in the Eastern Conference, on Jan. 5.

"We want to continue at this pace in the 25-game segments," said Allen. "The next 25 games we want to do somewhat of the same stuff that we're doing now, so it's not a moment to sit back and reflect just yet." *Reuters*

Pistons, Blazers fan scorching streaks

AUBURN HILLS, MICHIGAN—RICHARD Hamilton scored 23 points and delivered nine assists to fire the Detroit Pistons to a 114-101 victory over the Indiana Pacers on Friday, their seventh win in a row.

The Pistons blew the game wide open in the second quarter when they scored 40 points to take a 64-41 lead at the intermission.

"That was as good as it gets right there (in the second quarter)," the Pistons' Chauncey Billups told reporters.

"Executing, getting stops, I mean shots were just going and we just really opened the game up."

Reserve forward Jarvis Hayes, who missed Thursday's practice because of food poisoning, scored all 13 of his points in the period, including three three-pointers.

"I got an easy basket when I first got in the game and that kind of triggers a lot of other stuff for me," Hayes told reporters.

Tayshaun Prince added 15 points and Billups had 14 for the Pistons.

Jermaine O'Neal led the Pacers with 25 points.

In Miami, even a career-high 48 points by Dwyane Wade wasn't enough for the Heat to beat the Orlando Magic.

The Magic survived a late-game rally by the Heat to win 121-114 in overtime, giving coach Stan Van Gundy a victory in his return to south Florida.

Wade scored 20 points in the fourth quarter alone, but still Miami fell to 8-22.

In Portland, Oregon, Brandon Roy scored

22 points despite not playing the second quarter, and the Trail Blazers got their league-leading 12th straight victory by beating the Minnesota Timberwolves, 109-98.

12th straight

The streak matches Portland's best run since winning 12 in a row during the 2001-02 season, the team's second-longest stretch. Portland's longest streak was 16 games in the 1990-91 season.

Minnesota has the league's worst record at 4-24. The Timberwolves fell to 1-14 on the road.

In Los Angeles, Phil Jackson pulled even with Red Auerbach in regular-season victories as the Lakers downed the Utah Jazz, 123-109.

The Lakers' triumph gave Jackson his 938th career win and a share of seventh place on the career list.

In Oakland, California, Allen Iverson scored 39 points, including a late jumper to break a tie, and the Denver Nuggets edged the Golden State Warriors, 124-120.

Carmelo Anthony added 30 points for the Nuggets.

In Sacramento, California, Samuel Dalembert had 19 points, 11 rebounds and four blocks for Philadelphia, which pulled away in the fourth quarter to defeat the Kings, 92-80, and record a third straight victory.

The 76ers scored seven straight points to build a seven-point lead early in the fourth quarter and never trailed again.

Philadelphia has won eight of its past 11 games.

In East Rutherford, New Jersey, Richard Jefferson had 26 points as the Nets tipped the Washington Wizards, 109-106.

Vince Carter added 24 markers and Jason Kidd just missed a triple-double as New Jersey earned only its fourth win in

the past 14 home games.

Washington's Antawn Jamison had 27 points and 13 rebounds for his 20th double-double of the season and 200th of his career.

In Charlotte, North Carolina, David West had 20 points and 10 rebounds, and New Orleans turned in another dominating performance to rip Charlotte, 99-85.

Entering the game with the third-best record in the Western Conference, the Hornets posted their fourth straight blowout win by quickly putting away the Bobcats with alley-oop dunks, uncontested shots and energized defense.

In Memphis, Tennessee, Yao Ming had 22 points, 12 rebounds and five blocks and Houston ripped the Grizzlies apart, 103-83, despite Tracy McGrady sitting out with an injury.

The Grizzlies lost for the 11th time in the past 13 games.

In San Antonio, Jason Kapono scored 10 of his 15 points in the fourth quarter, and Toronto snapped a three-game losing streak by handing the Spurs only their second home loss of the season, 83-73.

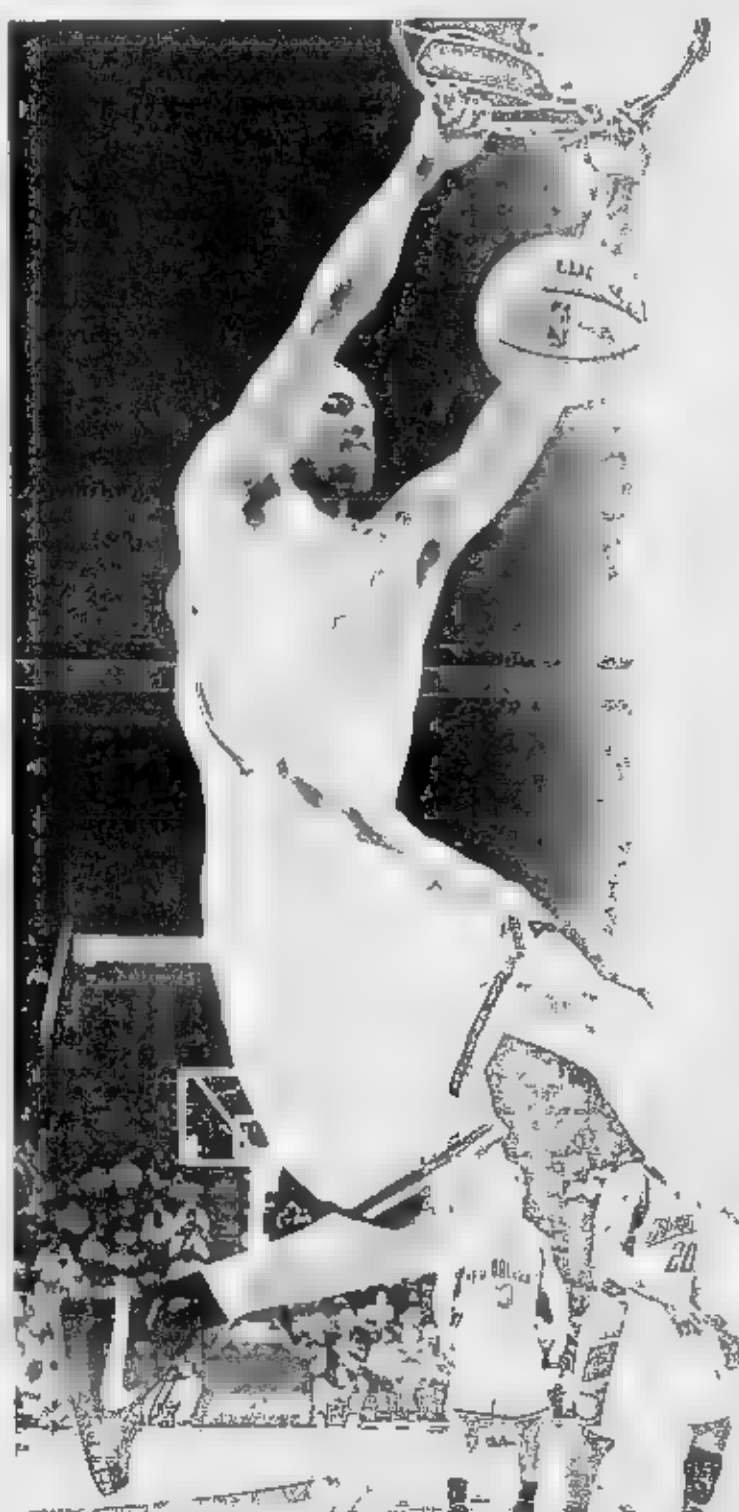
Debut win

At Chicago, Ben Gordon scored 19 of his 31 points in the fourth quarter and the Bulls tripped Milwaukee, 103-99, to give Jim Boylan a win in his debut as interim coach.

Boylan was promoted from his assistant's role Thursday, replacing Scott Skiles, who was fired on Christmas Eve after the Bulls' horrendous start.

In Phoenix, Amare Stoudemire scored 28 points on 12-of-15 shooting and the Suns downed the Los Angeles Clippers, 94-88, and won for the first time this season with less than 100 points.

The Suns had been 0-5 when scoring under 100. *Reuters, AP*



NEW ORLEANS' Tyson Chandler slams home a point.

Arsenal chief eager for Beckham's visit

LONDON—ARSENAL MANAGER Arsene Wenger hopes that a bit of David Beckham's talent rubs off on his young players.

Beckham will join the Arsenal squad at its training ground, which is close to his English home, to maintain his fitness before the Los Angeles Galaxy begins its season on March 29.

"He will come in January to practice with us, occasionally with the first team or the reserves," Wenger said Friday. "He can always give good advice and we will help him to keep fit. The youngsters will look up to him, of course."

Beckham is hoping to play his 100th game for England on Feb. 6 in a friendly against Switzerland, the first match for Eng-

land coach Fabio Capello.

The 32-year-old midfielder's last game for the Galaxy was a friendly against the Wellington Hurricanes in New Zealand on Dec. 1.

Wenger said he once considered signing the midfielder himself, but "for years he was at Manchester United and it was impossible." He said he has long respected Beckham for his behavior on and off the field.

"I admire how strong Beckham has been mentally through his career because he went through some tough times," Wenger said. "I respect the fact that he has always loved football and he has always shown respect for his managers even when he was dropped." *AP*

Roy Jones Jr. works out with Knicks

GREENBURGH, NEW YORK—ROY JONES Jr. believes he is proof that the New York Knicks can recover from getting beat up.

"Look at me. My last three years was really, after I beat John Ruiz, it just went downhill for a minute," Jones said Friday. "That happens. But the true professionals come back through that."

Jones took time from training for his Jan. 19 bout against Felix Trinidad at New York City's Madison Square Garden to join the National Basketball Association's Knicks for workouts at their training center.

"Shot was a little suspect, but nobody got close enough to him," Knicks coach Isiah Thomas said. "I don't think anybody wanted to challenge him for fear that he may punch him."

Jones has plenty of basketball experience having played in the US Basketball League for the Jacksonville Barracudas.

He showed his basketball skills while going through some drills with the Knicks.

Thomas said it's always good to have



someone from another sport come in to bring a different perspective. Asked what advice Jones had for the Knicks, Thomas said: "Hit the other guy before he hits you."



Jones wore a No. 4 practice jersey, which he said had special meaning. "Tito must go in four," he said in reference to Trinidad. *AP*

PRESEASON FAVORITE

Magnolia struggling for form

By Musong R. Castillo

LABELED AS THE TEAM TO BEAT IN almost all pre-season polls, Magnolia has not done justice to that tag.

Coach Siot Tanungcoen, in fact, has described his team as merely "fair" at this point of the Smart PBA Philippine Cup.

"Of course, everybody would say that we should have won more games," Tanungcoen told the *Inquirer* minutes after ripping Air21 Friday night. "We're not great, we're not that good, we're just (a) fair (team)."

With a 9-7 card and with a long shot at bagging an outright semifinal seat, the Beverage Masters have surprised people who never expected them to be struggling at this point of the tournament.

In fact, with a lineup that could basically pass as two all-star squads, even the other coaches in the 10-team field, in interviews done before the start of the season, have conceded Magnolia to be the runaway elimination round top-notcher.

But what has been the envy of the other mentors has actually been the bane of Tanungcoen, at least up to this point.

"The challenge has been how to get everyone in rhythm," the young coach, who won two titles with Barangay Ginebra before being asked to move to Magnolia, added. "And people will have to realize that it will take time (to do that)."

Danny Seigle and Lordy Tugade have been the only consistent offensive forces for the Beverage Masters, who have an abundance of talent on all fronts, especially in the frontline where an established center like Danny Ildefonso has not gotten his due exposure.

"It's tough to have a lineup with such overflowing talent as (what I have)," Tanungcoen continued. "But the good

thing about it is that you know that you have all the ammunition you need when you go to battle."

Magnolia is getting such reliable players like Ildefonso, Wesley Gonzales, Dorian Pena, Samigue Eman, Enrico Villanueva, Olsen Racela, Chris Calaguio, etc. to come off the bench alternately and play limited minutes.

But Tanungcoen has been very particular in naming Larry Fonacier as the one who has not really gotten the playing time from him.

"He used to be a star in all the teams he has played for before," the coach said of Fonacier, who was acquired from Red Bull during the off-season. "I'm having a difficult time trying to divide the time among my 12 players."

A very balanced team like the Purefoods Tender Juicy Giants has led the tournament right from the start, as they used a 7-0 start for an 11-4 card and within another win of the semifinal privilege.

Sta Lucia is another side that is making a run, winning six straight before the Holiday break to creep to within a game of the Giants even as Red Bull, said to be a goner at the start after losing some key players like Fonacier, is solidly in third place.

And when asked what kind of team, an over-loaded one or one that is balanced, he preferred to handle, Tanungcoen did a great job at not giving an answer.

"I could fail (with this lineup)," he said. "But I will try my best. But the good thing about this (lineup) is that I know that we have barely scratched the surface of talent that this team has."

So when the tournament resumes on Jan. 4, Tanungcoen would have had all the time to think of how to divide the time among his players. He may even have to totally ignore some people in his lineup to make it work.



DANNY Seigle is one of the more consistent Magnolia stars.

PBA IMAGES

Pucay rules year-end PGAP event

Rosebud secures Hobart handicap

ASIAN TOUR VETERAN MARS PUCAY capped a great year by shooting a four-under-par 64 to rule the PGAP Year-End Challenge by a stroke over Juanito Aguineldo at the short but tight Camp Aguinaldo layout on Friday.

The senior campaigner Pagunsan

mopped bury Orlan Sumcad and Arnold Villacencio, who tied for third after fashioning out 66s on the same day that the new set of PGAP officers was inducted.

The tournament was presented by president Jim Bustamante.

Along with Bustamante, the other members of the PGAP's new board who were inducted by lawyer Alex Avisado were vice-president Demetrio Sactot; Marco Nadas (secretary), Sumcad (treasurer), Vir Granada (auditor); Vic Santia (touring committee chair), Fernando Sta. Maria (teaching committee chair); Rodolfo Cuello (ethics committee chair), Gerry Nadas (rules); Kim Yong-ho (marketing), Sin Tae-gyun (sponsorship).

Pucay, who won the RP leg of the inaugural Asian Tour at the Malarayat, won P30,000.

Pagunsan settled for P25,000. Sumcad and Villacencio split P35,000 between them.

The PGAP held several tournaments for its events-hungry pros in the year about to pass.

Bustamante said that he expects even more tournaments to be held next year under the auspices of the new board.

Mathias, Patrombon triumph in Milo tennis

ACE MATHIAS AND JESON PATROMBON dispatched their respective rivals to arrange a semifinal contest in the boys' 16-under division yesterday in the 2007 Milo Junior Tennis Cup at the Philam Homes Tennis Club in Quezon City.

The 14-year-old Los Angeles-based Mathias and Patrombon tangle in the lower draw. Top seed Kim Ivor Saraza, a 6-0, 6-1 victor over Ali Imran Arsal, will meet Belfer Ugay in the upper Final 4 bracket.

In the girls' 14-under fight, Samantha Cuyuito clipped Jessica Lagman, 6-1, 6-0. She will next tackle Macy Gonzales, who bested Marinel Rudes, 4-6, 6-4, 10-4.

Jacob Lagman blanked Zaimul Burhan, 6-0, 6-0; Christian Samiento ousted Carlo Talayod, 6-3, 6-2; Vince Salas stopped Romnee Kyle Joseph, 6-1, 6-2; and Mark Conception edged LA Canzanas, 6-4, 4-6, 10-7, to make the boys' 12-under quarterfinal round.

HOBART, AUSTRALIA—U.S. YACHT Rosebud has taken handicap honors in the Sydney to Hobart yacht race.

Race spokesman Bruce Montgomery confirmed that Rosebud's time of two days, six hours, two minutes and two seconds was fast enough to beat Zephyr and Morna, which were still at sea late Saturday.

Rosebud, owned and skippered by American Roger Sturgeon, finished more than eight hours behind line honors winner Wild Oats XI, which became the first yacht in nearly 60 years to win three straight.

The handicap competition makes allowance for size and other characteristics of the yachts to determine a winner.

Wild Oats, skippered by Mark Richards, finished the 628-nautical mile (1,163-kilometer, 723-mile) race

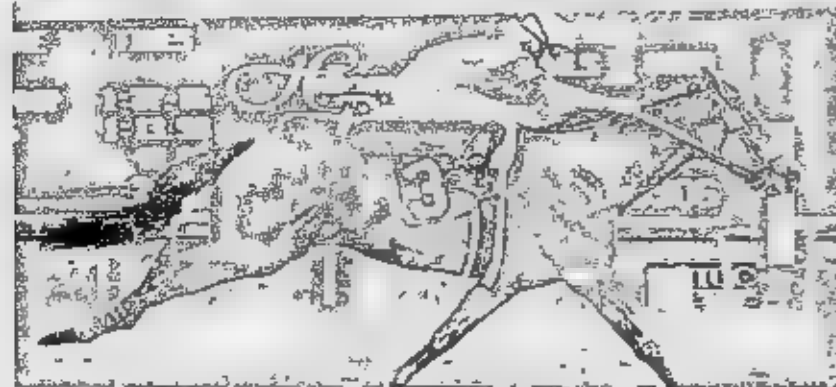
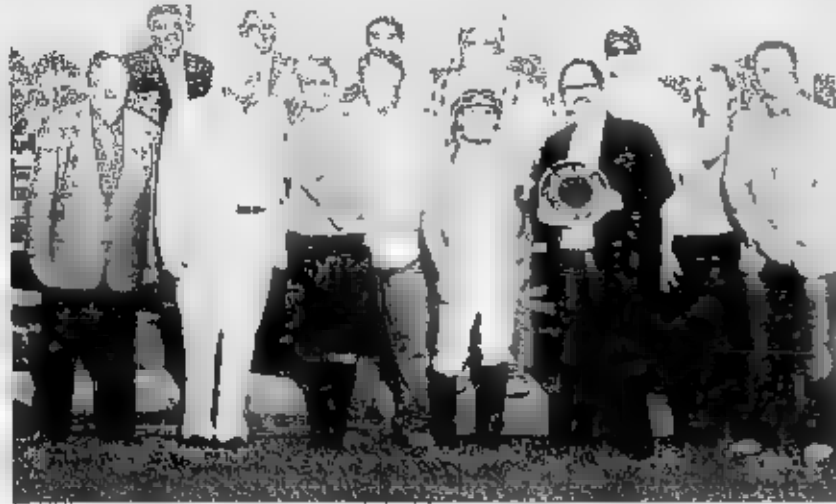
Friday in one day, 21 hours, 24 minutes, crossing the line at Constitution Dock in Hobart at 10:24 a.m. (2324 GMT).

Bob Oadey's 30-meter max. was the pre-race favorite and dominated from the opening minutes of Australia's premier yacht race which began from Sydney Harbor on Wednesday.

Wild Oats crossed the finish line ahead of the British maxi City Index Leopard, skippered by Mike Slade, which staged a dramatic comeback Friday morning before finishing 27 minutes behind.

Australian entry Ichu Ban finished third and Rosebud was fourth across the line.

Wild Oats matched the feat of Morna, which won from 1946-1948—the last and only other yacht to win three in a row. **AP**



WINNING CONNECTIONS AWAITING RITES AT HOLLYWOOD PARK

The winning connections of Hucking Hot celebrate their victory with Manila Jockey Club (MJC) director Martin R. Cepeda (third from right, top photo) who was invited to award the silver plate to US ace jockey Garret Gomez (fourth from right). Gomez guided his mount to victory in the recently concluded Audrey Skerball-Kent Stakes at Hollywood Park, CA, USA. The invitation was extended by winning horse owners (top photo) Jim Ford, Inc., Holiday, KM Stable, Maycock & Stutts and trainer Patrick Gallagher. Above photo shows the winning form of three-year-old bay filly Dessert Prince out of True Love finishing 1 1/8 miles in 1:48.56.



BENEDICT Chua, representative of Xavier School to the Tiong Lian Basketball League, and **Margarita del Cruz**, president and CEO of Filcon Manufacturing, distributor of Converse, sign an agreement making Converse one of the sponsors of the Tiong Lian basketball tournament slated in January.

Torre, Antonio ready for rematch

Baguio, Mindoro eyed as host of GMs' battle



TORRE: We're not getting any younger

INQUIRER PHOTO

GRANDMASTERS EUGENE Torre and Rogelio "Joey" Antonio Jr. are ready for a rematch.

The country's top woodpushers will try to outwit each other in a 12-match marathon in the summer of 2008 for two reasons: Promote chess in the countryside and prepare themselves for the Chess Olympiad slated late next year.

Antonio became the first local player to beat Torre with a one-game victory in their 1998 match.

"Hindi na rin naman kami bumabata (We're not getting any younger)," said Torre. "We need to develop more young chess talents. We're hoping to get the interest of potential talents from the grassroots level by going to their places."

Organizers are planning to hold the matches in Puerto Galera and Baguio City to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the World Chess Championships match between Anatoly Karpov and Victor Korchnoi, also held in Baguio City, in 1978.

Torre is an adopted son of

Baguio while Antonio hails from Oriental Mindoro.

Torre and Antonio are expected to lead the country's campaign in the Chess Olympiad set in Dresden, Germany on November 12 to 25. It will be the fifth time that Germany is hosting a chess Olympiad.

"Hindi natin alam baka yun na ang aming (We don't know if it will be our) last Olympiad next year," said Antonio. "Anuman ang mangyari, maganda na 'yung preparado kami (Whatever happens, it's better that we are prepared)."

Quezon City majority floor leader and fourth district Councilor Arie. Inton is also open to his city's hosting of the Torre and Antonio rematch.

"Both players are based in Quezon City," said Inton. "It would be great for our city and our people if they will play here. If it's not possible for us to host all 12 matches, even just the first three and the last three."

Marlon Bernardino, Contributor



ANTONIO: Preparing for Olympiad

INQUIRER PHOTO

5th Avenue cagers open Zheng Cup bid with victory over Macau

By Roy Lvarca

NANAN CITY, CHINA—RONNIE Zagala capped his heroics with the deciding baskets Friday night as 5th Avenue Telecoms nipped Macau, 93-91, at the start of the 7th Zheng Chenggong Cup here.

The 5-foot-11 Zagala exploded for 35 points, including the game's last four

points in 20 seconds to save the Filipinos.

Sniping from three-point territory, Macau led by as many as 15 points, 66-61, midway in the third quarter.

But Zagala, a former national player, combined with Luis Palaganas to push the Filipinos within 64-67 at the end of the period.

Macau was still on top at 91-89 with

20 seconds left, but Zagala knotted the count before getting the ball on a Macau fumble and splitting the middle for the marginal twinner just before the buzzer.

Other opening day results at the Nanan Stadium saw Buma Kaya of Indonesia rout Singapore's Tong Whye Physical Association, 80-48, and Hong Kong subdue the Nanan All Stars, 68-62.

Playing coach Junel Mendiola attributed the nine-man team's shaky start to the holiday break and the late notice they received to take over the place of Mail and More in the six-team, single-round tournament being held in honor of the late Chinese general and hero.

"We're still rusty and off-form," said Mendiola. Former pros Jeffrey Sanders

and Willie Moody were unable to join the team here.

The scorers:
EAST AVENUE 93—Zagala 35, Palaganas 18, David 9, Lim 8, Mendoza 8, Bartscher 6, Dilzon 6, Mendiola 3, Ulorqua 0.

MACAU 91—Li ZP 30, Wang ZD 25, Jia Rui 13, Li SJ 12, Liu SF 11, Huang CX 6, Lu JW 0.
Quarters: 25-28, 45-56, 64-67, 93-91



Informing and inspiring Filipino readers for more than two decades through balanced news and fearless views, the Philippine Daily Inquirer has undoubtedly become the country's number 1 newspaper. Our heartfelt thanks for making the Inquirer a part of your daily reading habit.

As we celebrate our 22nd anniversary, Inquirer grants 22 loyal readers their wishes – from an exciting wish like meeting your local idol to a romantic one like celebrating your 25th wedding anniversary in a beach resort. Let us know what you really want in 300 words or less, tell us:

- 1) How long have you been reading the Philippine Daily Inquirer?
- 2) What do you like most about the Inquirer, and we dare ask, what do you like least?
- 3) What is your number 1 wish that Inquirer can grant you, and why?

Here's how to join:

1) Answer the three (3) questions in a total of 300 words or less.

2) Choose one (1) way of sending your entry:

- a) E-mail: inquirer@inquirer.com.ph
- b) Postal Mail:

Number 1 Promo Marketing Department
Philippine Daily Inquirer
1098 Chino Rocas Avenue
Corner Yague and Maricorona Streets
Makati City 1204

3) You may only send one (1) entry, in the event that you send more than one entry, Inquirer will consider your first entry. All other entries will be disqualified.

4) Include the following information in your entry:

- a) Full name
- b) Residential address
- c) Landline number
- d) Mobile number
- e) Date of birth

5) Philippine Daily Inquirer will accept entries from 12:01 AM of December 9, 2007 to 11:59 PM of January 9, 2008 only.

6) As Philippine Daily Inquirer is on its 22nd year, twenty-two (22) best entries will be chosen by a panel of Inquirer editors and executives.

7) Winners will be announced in Inquirer on January 28, and selected through postal mail.

8) Winners must present at least one (1) valid ID with photo (school, company, government) and the notification from the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

9) Prizes can be claimed at the Philippine Daily Inquirer head office.

10) Prizes will be paid by the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

11) Prizes not claimed within sixty (60) days from receipt of notification will be forfeited to favor of the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

12) Winners shall agree to have their names and photos published in the newspaper or announced in any mode or manner of advertisement as the Philippine Daily Inquirer may deem appropriate.

13) In case of dispute, the Philippine Daily Inquirer's decision shall be final.

14) All employees of the Philippine Daily Inquirer, their relatives up to second degree of consanguinity or affinity, and of its advertising agency, are not allowed to participate in this contest.

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER

History beckons New England

Patriots shoot for NFL's first 16-0 record

FOXBOROUGH—THE QUESTION WAS FROM AN OUT-of-town reporter and it was anathema to Patriots coach Bill Belichick, but it has proven prophetic.

"A lot of people, not just here locally but across the country, are talking about this team having a perfect record this season of 16-0. Is that something that you welcome or strive for?" asked the uninitiated inquirer Sept. 19, three days after the Patriots had defeated the San Diego Chargers, 38-14, to run their record to 2-0.

"That's so ridiculous," said Belichick. "Seriously, is there anything else? We need to go out and have a good practice today. That's what we need to do. We need to get ready for Buffalo."

But it's not so ridiculous anymore. The moment has arrived. Belichick and the Patriots can complete the first 16-0 regular season in NFL history—the league switched to a 16-game schedule in 1978—with a victory over the host New York Giants Saturday, becoming the fourth team in league history to post an undefeated, untied regular season and

the first since the 1972 Miami Dolphins, who had a 14-0 regular season on their way to 17-0 overall.

The prospect of going 16-0 has been the elephant in the locker room the Patriots wouldn't acknowledge—until now.

"As focused as we've been answering all these questions in here, it is in the back of our minds what we can achieve," said linebacker Tedy Bruschi, when asked if the Patriots would have an extra adrenaline rush Saturday.

"To be undefeated in the [16-game] regular season is something that has never been done before. When you're faced with that, it's a challenge and you want to face that challenge and achieve it. I think that will all be in the back of our minds, and of course all the attention to this game, being on three different networks. But how do we win the game? We have to focus on the Giants and what we have to do to stop them."

No one has been able to stop New England as it has posted an average margin of victory of 20.8 points, scoring a league-best 36.7 points per game while allowing only 15.9 per game, tied for tops in the league. But talk of 16-0 was verboten until this week.

That wasn't a surprise to Giants quarterback Eli Manning. In 2005, Manning's older brother, Peyton, quarterbacked the Indianapolis Colts to a 13-0 start. Eli said 16-0 wasn't a topic of conversation with his brother.

"No, I never really spoke to him at that time about it," said the Giants quarterback. "It's one of those deals maybe like a guy that's throwing a no-hitter, you don't talk about it at the time. You try to go unnoticed and treat everything the same. Even afterwards, he didn't make a big deal about it. He had other things and the most important thing was the playoffs, so I never really spoke to him about that."

New England had taken the same position, but now history is within its reach. The Patriots, who have clinched home-field advantage in the playoffs and a first-round bye, have made it clear they intend to play for 16-0.

The Patriots could set other records in the process. Randy Moss needs two touchdown catches to break Jerry Rice's record of 22, set in the strike-shortened 1987 season. Tom Brady needs two touchdown passes to surpass Peyton Manning's mark of 49, set in 2004. The Patriots, who have scored 551 points, need just 6 to break the NFL record set by the 1998 Minnesota Vikings.

But Brady has made it clear the only record he cares about is 16-0.

"If you take any energy away from that as a goal, then you're really not doing yourself or your team any justice," he said. "Maybe when you look back at the end of your career you look at those things and it's a cool thing to have, but everything I've experienced in the NFL and the greatest moments I've had is not

when you throw five touchdown passes. It's when you win championships."

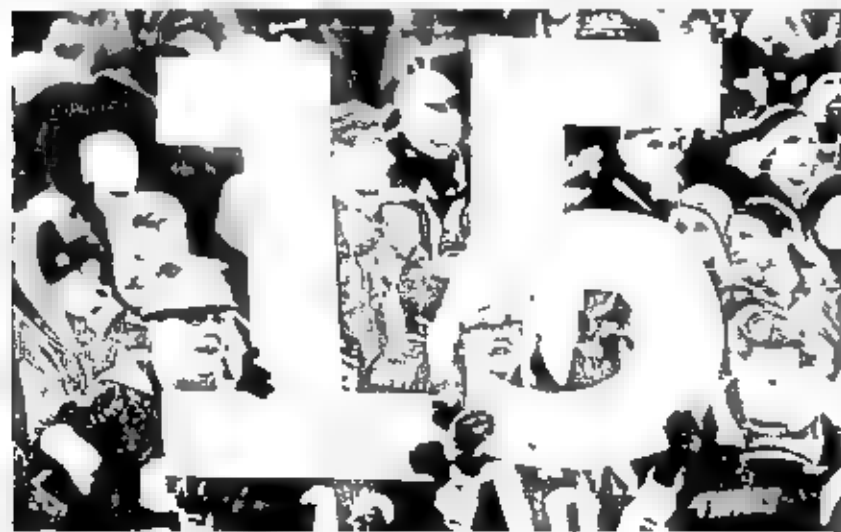
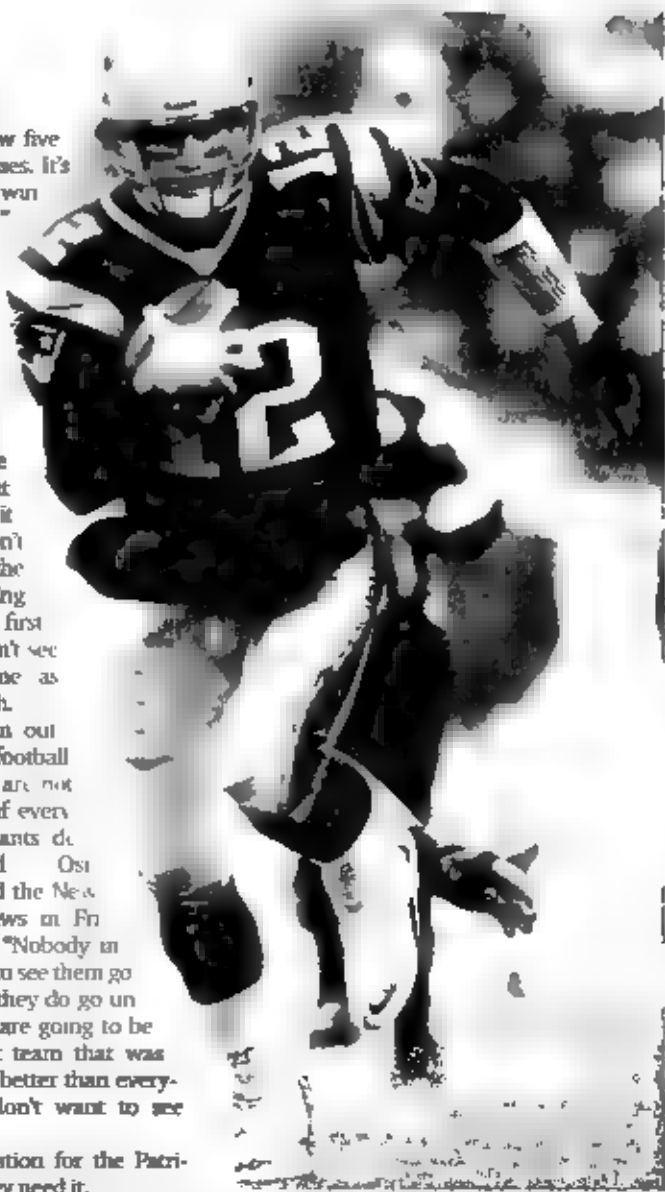
Locked into the No. 5 seed as a wild card in the NFC playoffs, the Giants have nothing to gain by beating the Patriots, but have made it clear they don't plan on being the foil for New England's football first. New York doesn't see Saturday's game as David vs. Goliath.

"They are an outstanding football team, but they are not so far ahead of everybody else," Giants defensive end Osi Umenyiora told the New York Daily News in Friday's edition. "Nobody in the NFL wants to see them go undefeated. If they do go undefeated, they are going to be known as that team that was just that much better than everybody else. I don't want to see that."

More motivation for the Patriots, not that they need it.

Although the Patriots may have changed their approach to dealing with questions about perfection, they're not changing their approach to achieving it.

"We're all right in the middle of this right now and it's our next game, so this week, right now, I look at it as possibly achieving a victory over the Giants," said Bruschi. **NYTimes News Service**



AFTER watching their team claim win No. 15, Patriots fans want one more victory. **AP**

HOPMAN CUP

Meghann, Mardy lift US squad over India

PERTH, AUSTRALIA—MEGHANN SHAUGHNESSY, filling in for Serena Williams, got the United States off to a winning start and Mardy Fish clinched the win over India in the first match of the 20th Hopman Cup.

The No. 2-ranked US team led 2-0 ahead of the doubles in the international mixed team event.

Shaughnessy ended a seesawing opening women's singles match against Sana Mirza by winning the last five games against the ailing Indian player for a 6-3, 4-6, 6-3 triumph.

Fish secured an unbeatable 2-0 lead with a 6-2, 6-4 win over India's Rohan Bopanna in the men's singles.

Australia was to play the Czech Republic later Saturday, with the top-seeded Serbia starting its Group A campaign against Taiwan and France playing Argentina on Sunday.

Australian Open champion Serena Williams was expected to arrive in Perth on the weekend and replace Shaughnessy for the United States' next match against Czech Republic on Monday.

Injuries have delayed Williams' arrival here but she is expected to be okay for the Monday match.

Each team plays three times in the round robin format, with the top two teams in each group advancing to the semifinals. **AP**

Wife's ailment haunts 'The Ghost'

GILROY, CALIFORNIA—ROBERT Guerrero's world is calm during his dawn training runs in the Diablo Range's rambling foothills. The IBF featherweight champion relishes the daily grind of roadwork amid the faint garlic aroma that always hangs in his hometown's cool air.

"You get used to it after a while, but when you go out of town and come back, you smell it again," Guerrero says. "I like to smell it now."

When the fighter known since childhood as "The Ghost" returns to his home a few kilometers away, the calm recedes just like that familiar fragrance. The Christmas-New Year's holiday season has been both more frightening and more joyous than anything he's ever known.

Casey Guerrero, his wife and the mother of their two children, was diagnosed with leukemia less than two weeks before his bout against Martin Honorio last month.

Sleeping on hospital floor

He spent several nights sleeping on the floor of a hospital room before the fight, and he didn't get to Tucson, Arizona, until the day before the bout. In the nervous moments before heading into an unfriendly ring at a desert casino, his father crystallized his purpose.

"This is what puts your foot on the table," Ruben Guerrero told his son. "This is what's going to pay your medical bills for your wife."

After the Arizona fans jeered his name, the Ghost knocked out Honorio 56 seconds into the first round with one stunning punch—and two hours later, he was on his way back home to Casey.



GUERRERO: A lot of people are counting on me to do my best.

He's spent the eight weeks since his victory in a whirlwind of motion and emotion. When he's not shuttling Casey to doctors' visits in the San Francisco area, he's practicing the finer points of changing diapers or putting a 2-year-old girl's hair into a ponytail—and he never lets himself get out of shape.

"I've got a lot of responsibility on me," Guerrero says. "A lot of people are counting on me to do my best at everything I need to do, so I don't want to let anybody down. My father, my wife, my children, my team—everybody is counting on me."

With ample support from his family and in-laws, the 24-year-old champion is juggling his duties as a boxer, a

husband, a father, and a brother to another aspiring fighter with dreams of glory.

A shock

So far Guerrero hasn't dropped anything.

"He's a tough kid, but nobody would know how to react to that," says Ruben Guerrero, who's also his son's trainer. "It's a big shock when they tell you your wife has cancer, and they don't know if she's going to die. It was tough for everybody to deal with."

His father suspects the third of his four fighting sons was particularly well equipped to handle such a challenge. Aside from his inherited discipline, he seems to be that rare boxer without a grandiose bone in his body, which is dramatically skinny even when he isn't making weight.

He doesn't wear jewelry or gaudy clothing, and he still lives in humble Gilroy, venturing away only for training and fights. Fittingly, his favorite boxer is Salvador Sanchez, the underdog Mexican featherweight who became a surprise world champion before dying at 23 in a 1982 car crash.

"The people around me keep me focused on boxing instead of the other stuff," Guerrero says. "Casey plays a big role in that, and so does my father."

Ruben Guerrero was an amateur champion in both Texas and San Francisco before raising his family in Gilroy. When young Robert showed an interest in the hurting business, Ruben developed a plan to maximize his wiry son's potential—everything from a strict early morning training regimen

to a stringent diet.

Though Robert has worked with respected trainers Freddie Roach and Joe Goossen, his father is still in charge.

"I'll hear him knocking on the door at 4 a.m., saying, 'Come on, we'll drink coffee and wait for the sun to rise,'" Robert says. "He pushed me. He still does."

After a steady rise through the amateur ranks and a near-miss with the US Olympic team, Guerrero won the IBF title in September 2006 when Eric Asken quit on his stool. Guerrero lost the belt to Orlando Saudo two months later—but Salido tested positive for doping, voiding the result.

When Casey gave birth to their son, Robert, just 10 months ago, Guerrero was in Denmark reclaiming the vacant title by beating Spend Abazi, even winning cheers from Abazi's home crowd with a ninth-round knockout.

All shook up

Casey and Robert have been together since their early days at Gilroy High School. She backed his progression through a dangerous sport, and her illness shook him in ways his support team couldn't have guessed from his wordless focus in Tucson.

"I was talking to her on the phone, and she was asking exactly what time I was fighting," Guerrero says. "I told her, and she said, 'OK, I'll be praying at exactly 7 o'clock. Don't think about me. Just think about what you have to do.' That's the way she is."

Until Casey makes a full recovery, the Ghost will keep doing the right thing for his family and his profession. **AP**

Beautiful Mornings served daily.

Beautiful mornings served daily.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Available from 6:30 am to 10:30 am
For every purchase of Breakfast Value Meal + Pin
(Minibar not included)

GET YOUR COPY AT THESE PARTICIPATING BRANCHES: MALABON CONCEPCION • MUNOZ • MQU • PHILCOA • REGALADO • INTRAMUROS • STA. CRUZ • PEDRO GIL • TEPANTO • QUEZON AVE. • WEST AVENUE • PROJECT 8 • NORTH AVENUE • UN AVENUE • GEN. LUNA • EDSA ROTONDA • BACILAN REDEMPTORIST • QUMBO TAFT • TM KALAW • SAN JOAQUIN • PATEROS BAYAN • SHILL • EMERALD • EL PUEBLO • SIBATA 180 • GREENHILLS • MEGAMALL • BARANCA • WILSON • EDSA BOM • EDSA IT CENTER • CUBAO • ALIMALL • FARMERS • KAMIAS • METROLANE • MARCOS HIGHWAY • ANTIPOLO • C&P MARKINA • EASTWOOD • KALIPUNAN • MASAYAS AVE. • MATAINO • TOMAS MORATO • EDSA PANAY • GON. FORBES • BAHAY • P. CAMPA • QA BAHAY • UST PARKING DECK • GREENBELT • VALERO • RICKS • BINANGA • EVANGELISTA • AYALA MRT • PEOPLE SUPPORT • MOUNT CITY HALL • LAS PINAS • KASHASHAN • TIMES • AIRPORT ROAD • SUCAT PALANTAY • ALABANG • SOUTHMALL • NORTHGATE F&T EYES • JP RIZAL • PACO • PRC • MAKATI AVE. • LIBERTAD • HOLIDAY PLAZA • BANKER • KINGSWOOD • FORT BONI 32ND ST.



IN THIS ISSUE

- 'RP a slice of paradise affordable to baby boomers' /B2
- Flower and dolls from what used to be waste /B3

Website: www.inquirer.net/business

Sunday BIZ

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

THE LARGEST "One Stop Telecom Chain" in Bohol

'He who is closest to the customer is king'

Bohol-based entrepreneur innovates



RAYMOND ROLDAN

By Margie Quimpo-Espino

(SundayBiz will be featuring Master Entrepreneurs, entrepreneurs who turned their companies around or who implemented innovative ideas while taking the Master Entrepreneurship program at the Asian Institute of Management Asian Center for Entrepreneurship.)

Forty-one entrepreneurs graduated under ME Batch 12. Four of the students/businessmen received "superior performance" distinctions and two got "commendable performance" awards.

We start the series with Raymond Roldan, 41, an Economics graduate of the University of the Philippines.)

RAYMOND, A BOHOL-based entrepreneur, was once approached by a top executive of a mobile phone company to become its exclusive distributor. He had to say no.

Why should he say yes when Raymond's Save 'n Earn is the largest "One Stop Telecom Chain" in Bohol that carries all three brands—Globe Telecom, Smart Communications Co. Inc., and Sun Cellular.

Its product lines include cellular phones, accessories, prepaid cards, electronic load, dream satellite TV, satellite phones and cell phone repair and services.

Raymond earned a "superior perfor-

mance" when he graduated from the Asian Institute of Management Master in Entrepreneurship program for innovations he adopted in his business.

"I had been thinking of innovations in 2006 and I needed affirmation of these," Raymond cites as the reason for joining the ME program.

A major innovation was a program that reduced his inventory of prepaid loads through real-time recording of transactions through a new technology that Save 'n Earn developed. The program enables Save 'n Earn dealers to always have the load value customers want to buy. The outlets no longer carry the phone cards. Only the central office does.

Another program he undertook was the hiring of students as part-time workers.

"If Jollibee can get part-time students who are sosyal yet mop the floors and clean the toilets, why can't I?" he asked.

His rationale was that malls, where some of his outlets are located, have a peak time of only four hours, so the answer to meet this increased demand is to get part-time workers.

A third innovation is the S 'n E Entrepreneurship program wherein he converts retailers into dealers. He also has a unique program where he provides financing for his contractual employees to become his dealers, thus converting them into micro entrepreneurs.

Today, he has 24 company-owned outlets

and 31 franchisees.

Like many entrepreneurs, Raymond did not strike gold during his first attempt at entrepreneurship. After college, he went into the poultry contract-growing business. The company he was supplying to experienced financial difficulties and Raymond lost a lot of money.

Typhoon "Ruping," which destroyed his farm, did not help.

"I then went into processed meat and table eggs peddling to help my family after our farm was hit by Typhoon Ruping," he says.

He decided then that he would never go

HE WHO, B2

BUY • SELL • PAWN

ROLEX

SWISS WATCHES • L.V. BAGS

JEWELRY • DIAMONDS

BEST PRICE IN TOWN!!!

SPOT CASH

3829198

8341572

0917-8141967

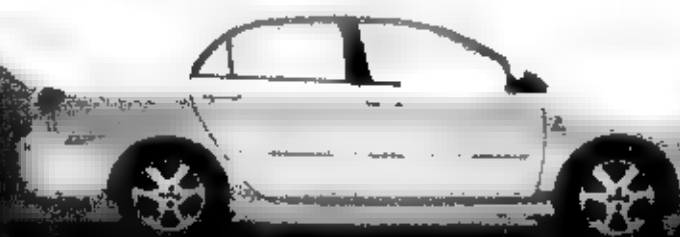
MANILA WATCH & JEWELRY

Also with branches in DAVAO & CEBU

10:00AM - 8:00 PM 7 days a week

(Not connected to Rolex Center Phils. LTO of any other watch company or service center)

To keep your balance, you must keep moving.



Moving 500,000 vehicles through the years has brought Toyota Motor Philippines to unprecedented heights. But that is not the only thing we take pride in. We have always stood by our commitment to make people's lives better through innovation, technology and social responsibility. It is our promise that for every Toyota vehicle we will be selling in the days and years to come, we will be giving the same passion, the same commitment to take our customers with us as we move forward to the future.

TOYOTA

500

THOUSAND

TOYOTA

moving forward

'RP a slice of paradise affordable to baby boomers'



TONY MACALUSO

By Romeo J. Pajarillo
Contributor

AN AMERICAN GLOBETROTTER, Tony Macaluso of Florida, bought an 18-foot long carving of a school of fishes in Philippine hardwood, narra.

It is the most expensive he has ever bought during any of his travels. "But it fits with the nautical décor of my home in Florida," he said. He will show it to friends, not as a carving but, as a flat TV screen showing smiling Filipinos.

"In very glowing terms, I will tell friends about the Filipino accommodations and their willingness to try not only to be friendly but very happy people," he said. "Friendliness is endemic in their culture."

Macaluso was here as one of the professional lecturers at the Asian International Real Estate Expo and Conference (AIREEC). He talked about marketing to (US) baby boomers (those born after World War II up to 1964)

"You have the sun for boomers who want to escape the winter, English-speaking people, low cost of living, and the life stage facilities that baby boomers can afford," he said. "I will tell people how far baby boomers can stretch their retirement budget or investment dollars in the Philippines."

Susan Barlin, the Fil-Am CEO of AIREEC, described Macaluso as among the US realtors who brought plane loads of US baby boomers to Costa Rica and Panama.

"The boomers are a lucrative market segment that will continue to spend for the next 20 years until they are in their 70s and 80s," she said.

By Macaluso's calculation, the US boomers are now about 80 million strong. Every nine seconds, 10,000 are turning 60. An increasing number of US boomers means a growing market that includes those managing wealth inherited from tycoon-parents and spouses.

As the boomers march to their

golden years, they acquire second homes or invest in properties that appreciate in value. Some boomers, however, are poor savers: they look forward to living to their 80s to places that their pensions can pay for.

The boomers market is why real estate has gone international and why US property professionals like Macaluso are interested in the Philippines to fill their clients' demand for global properties.

In February 2007, a survey by the US National Association of Realtors showed that 37 percent of US realtors had engaged in international transactions compared with only 20 percent four years ago.

Macaluso gathered early information that could help connect the Philippines with the needs, wants and desires of boomers.

These nesters and the boomer health freaks have been travelling to places with leisure villas, vacation resorts, condotels, serviced apartments,

and condominiums.

"They are very concerned about health services and facilities because as you grow older your heart starts to wear out," he said.

Another market segment is boomers with generational responsibilities. They care for their aging folks, and require geriatric care and assisted-living facilities such as those offered in the Philippines.

Many countries put together come-ons because boomer spending creates jobs, sustains entrepreneurs, and brings in more investment projects.

Panama, to outfox Mexico and Costa Rica, brought in foreigners with discounts on plane fares, restaurant meals, movies, hospital bills, and doctor's fees. Foreigners who buy homes are exempted from paying real taxes for 20 years. Its *pensionado* program applies to foreigners with pensions from social security systems, armed forces or private companies.

Ovaline Power

proudly presents

28th National Quiz Bee®

GRAND FINALS

www.quizbee.org

TONIGHT

7:30 PM



JANETH
and
Raymond
Roldan

'He who is ...

From page B1

into business where he is dependent on only one person or company.

He went instead into the appliance business. Being the innovative thinker that he is, he used agents to sell the appliances and these agents get commissions and discounts when they buy appliances. To attract people to buy from him, he provided term payments of up to one year.

It was in the early '90s when he was approached by a cell phone dealer to sell phones on a consignment basis.

Raymond agreed to try selling 10 phones. But the salesman arrived with two boxes of the then huge cell phones.

Raymond had to remove a TV set from his small appliance shop to accommodate the mobile phones.

He recalls that a few months later, Mobiline (the first though now defunct mobile phone firm owned by PLDT) began to offer schemes for mobile phone subscribers.

Smart Communications Co. Inc. followed and soon, cell phone sales began to pick up.

Of the first 15 lines Smart sold, Raymond sold 13.

He earned commissions. Soon, he was removing more TV sets to replace these with mobile phones.

"The appliance business was not fair. If you compare it with school, I was only in Grade 1. My competitors were already in college. The new business (cell phone) was an equalizer—the old timers did not understand it."

The turning point in sales for the cell phone business was the prepaid scheme.

"The postpaid [the first scheme introduced by the phone companies] is not fit to the majority of the market," Raymond comments.

The postpaid scheme demands a clean credit background and proof of income—something which the majority of the Filipinos cannot meet.

Raymond says sales increased by about a thousand times when prepaid was introduced. At that time, in 1994, the distribution systems of mobile phone companies were disorganized.

Raymond decided to do two things—focus on the customer and open branches where new cell sites were being built.

"In the early years of the cell phone industry, there were a lot of informal intermediaries. National distributors appointed "sub-distributors" for the different areas or provinces instead of penetrating the area themselves. The pioneering cell phone dealers in the provinces were usually informally appointed as "area sub-distributors" for their respective provinces. These "sub-distributors" operated as a one-man operation in small offices taking orders from dealers and retailers.

This required substantial capital to buy in bulk from the national distributors. At that time, we did not have the financial capacity to buy in bulk as a sub-distributor. I also believed, at that time, that gradual branching in the newly fired up areas (areas with new cell sites) would be a more viable and sustainable alternative since I will be dealing directly with the customers or end-users—that "he who is closest to the customer is king."

That proved to be a wise move since our network of branches gradually expanded geographically all over the province. Since we dealt directly with the end-users, we were not affected by the rampant price wars among the distributors and dealers. We bypassed certain channels in the supply chain to directly serve the end-users through our network of branches and franchised outlets to maximize our profitability and leverage."

Soon, he had a branch in every major town. And not long after, he went into franchising.

Save 'n Earn's franchising program has three packages—P60,000 for a cart which includes P30,000 worth of stocks; P250,000 for a kiosk with stocks of P125,000; and P500,000 for a store with stocks worth P250,000.

As this goes to press, Raymond is spending Christmas in the US enjoying a very profitable year.

28th NATIONAL QUIZ BEE			
BAKING		MATHEMATICS	
Region I (Ilocos Region)	Region VIII (Eastern Visayas)	Region I (Ilocos Region)	Region VIII (Eastern Visayas)
Pagudpud Central Elementary School	Cassidy Elem. School	Pagudpud Central Elementary School	Cassidy Elem. School
Coach: Ms. Analiza A. Jengyel	Coach: Ms. Ma. Paz Makabenta	Coach: Ms. Analiza A. Jengyel	Coach: Ms. Ma. Paz Makabenta
Contestant: Mark John Garvida	Contestant: Greg Siegmund Quiñaneta	Contestant: Mark John Garvida	Contestant: Greg Siegmund Quiñaneta
Region II (Cagayan Valley)	Region IX (Zamboanga Peninsula)	Region II (Cagayan Valley)	Region IX (Zamboanga Peninsula)
Echague West Central School	Pagadian City Pilot School	Echague West Central School	Pagadian City Pilot School
Coach: Ms. Teresita R. Macadaog	Coach: Ms. Virginia Estabao	Coach: Ms. Teresita R. Macadaog	Coach: Ms. Virginia Estabao
Contestant: Shirlaine Estanectoc	Contestant: Joveilyn G. Cabal	Contestant: Shirlaine Estanectoc	Contestant: Joveilyn G. Cabal
Region III (Central Luzon)	Region X (Northern Mindanao)	Region III (Central Luzon)	Region X (Northern Mindanao)
Melolos Elem. School	Xavier University Grade School	Melolos Elem. School	Xavier University Grade School
Coach: Mrs. Edna C. Diaz	Coach: Mr. Roberto Goabla	Coach: Mrs. Edna C. Diaz	Coach: Mr. Roberto Goabla
Contestant: Thea Philine M. Paguligan	Contestant: Mar Clatus Lapoot	Contestant: Thea Philine M. Paguligan	Contestant: Mar Clatus Lapoot
Region IV-A (CALABARZON)	Region XI (Davao)	Region IV-A (CALABARZON)	Region XI (Davao)
Juan Sumulong Elem. School	Maguibo Pilot Imelda Elem. School	Juan Sumulong Elem. School	Maguibo Pilot Imelda Elem. School
Coach: Ms. Leonora P. Espinoza	And Special Education Center	Coach: Ms. Leonora P. Espinoza	And Special Education Center
Contestant: Angeli Lorraine Dalde	Coach: Mrs. Rosario M. Mercado	Contestant: Angeli Lorraine Dalde	Coach: Mrs. Rosario M. Mercado
Region IV-B (MIMAROPA)	Region XII (SOCCSKSARGEN)	Region IV-B (MIMAROPA)	Region XII (SOCCSKSARGEN)
Julio R. Hernandez Memorial School	Koronadal City Elem. School I	Julio R. Hernandez Memorial School	Koronadal City Elem. School I
Coach: Ms. Josefina Tobias	Coach: Ms. Rosalinda G. Rafael	Coach: Ms. Josefina Tobias	Coach: Ms. Rosalinda G. Rafael
Contestant: Laynette F. Malabanan	Contestant: Marc Louise Fallon	Contestant: Laynette F. Malabanan	Contestant: Marc Louise Fallon
Region V (Bicol)	CARAGA Administrative Region	Region V (Bicol)	CARAGA Administrative Region
Ibalon Central School	Surigao West Central Elem. School	Ibalon Central School	Surigao West Central Elem. School
Coach: Ms. Teresita B. Baile	Coach: Mrs. Anita A. Odchimar	Coach: Ms. Teresita B. Baile	Coach: Mrs. Anita A. Odchimar
Contestant: Justin Mae Aguilar	Contestant: Marilyn A. Cuantioso	Contestant: Justin Mae Aguilar	Contestant: Marilyn A. Cuantioso
Region VI (Western Visayas)	Cordillera Administrative Region	Region VI (Western Visayas)	Cordillera Administrative Region
Starglow Center for Academic & Arts	Tadian Central School	Starglow Center for Academic & Arts	Tadian Central School
Coach: Ms. Sylvia Sueiran	Coach: Ms. Rose D. Osenio	Coach: Ms. Sylvia Sueiran	Coach: Ms. Rose D. Osenio
Contestant: Gino Ramon S. Magayanes	Contestant: Mayda B. Galawen	Contestant: Gino Ramon S. Magayanes	Contestant: Mayda B. Galawen
Region VII (Central Visayas)	National Capital Region	Region VII (Central Visayas)	National Capital Region
Holy Spirit School	Paco Catholic School	Holy Spirit School	Paco Catholic School
Coach: Ms. Cecille S. Ingles	Coach: Ms. Lanie Landicho	Coach: Ms. Cecille S. Ingles	Coach: Ms. Lanie Landicho
Contestant: Maia Binhi B. Borja	Contestant: Lester Antoni B. Hesita	Contestant: Maia Binhi B. Borja	Contestant: Lester Antoni B. Hesita

PRIZES

4 NATIONAL CHAMPION STUDENTS

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo Trophy
Quiz Bee Gold Medalion of Excellence
Php 100,000.00 worth of Philamlife Insurance
Php 70,000.00 worth of Philam Achieve Education Plan
32 vol. Time Life Illustrated Encyclopedia of Science & Nature
Multimedia computer system from Philippine Daily Inquirer
Mobile Phone from Ovaline Power
Digital MP3 Player from Uni Mitsubishi Writing Instruments
Gift Packages from Partner Sponsors

4 NATIONAL CHAMPION TEACHERS

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo Trophy
P 100,000 worth of Philamlife Insurance
World Encyclopedia
Gift Packages from Partner Sponsors

4 NATIONAL CHAMPION SCHOOLS

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo Trophy
New Penguin Encyclopedia

4 NATIONAL CHAMPION DIVISIONS

Quizbee Foundation Trophy
Chambers Encyclopedia

4 NATIONAL CHAMPION REGIONS

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo Trophy
Chambers Book of Facts

SPECIAL AWARDS

Most Friendly Bee
- Quiz Bee Foundation Trophy
Best in Costume (Male)
- Quiz Bee Foundation Trophy
Best in Costume (Female)
- Quiz Bee Foundation Trophy



The Summit of the Super Quiz Bees is a four (4) day all expense paid live-in camp with tours, seminars and fellowships for the regional champions and teacher coaches from the sixteen (16) regions of the country

SPONSORS

CECON Junior

UNI MITSUBISHI

intel

PHILAM LIFE PHILAM PLANS Yehy!

INQUIRER

INQUIRER

LIBRE

JRS EXPRESS

WING

WING

WING

WING

WING

WING

WING

WING

WING

WING

WING

WING

WING

WING

WING

WING

WING

WING

WING

WING

WING

WING

WING

WING

WING



CARIAGA makes beautiful things out of corn husks.



Flowers and dolls from what used to be waste

By Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes
Inquirer Northern Luzon

URDANETA CITY—"WE used to feed corn husks to farm animals, but we mostly burned them. But we have found out that we can create something artistic and beautiful from what we considered as wastes," says Jay-ar Cariaga, 19, an out-of-school youth from Villasis town.

Cariaga was one of the 47 trainees in making and using corn husks, a project of the Department of Agriculture's Ilocos regional office under its Ginintuang Masaganang Ani-Corn program.

Their creations came as a pleasant revelation for the trainees composed of mostly of out-of-school youth and mothers from the different village of Villasis.

This was because, at the start of the four-day training, they were not shown any example or photo of a finished product, their trainer, Priscilla Abenoja, says.

"I wanted them to find out for themselves what they can create out of something from otherwise useless materials."

The trainees were taught how to mix the different colors to come up with assorted hues using fabric dye. The next lesson was how to cut petals and leaves from the dyed husks and then fashion them into flowers like rose, lotus, calla lily and others.

Corn husks can also be made into dolls, but that would be for the next training of selected trainees, Abenoja says.

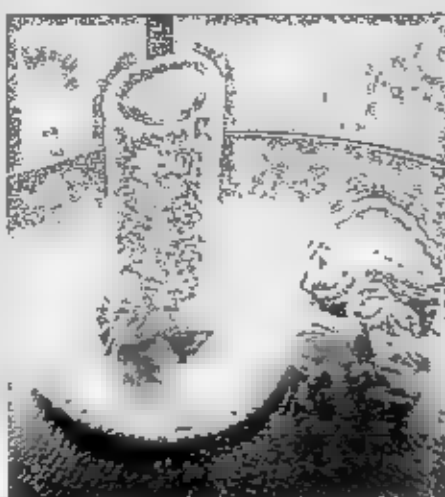
To make art works from corn husks, one would need basic art tools like white glue, masking tape, floral tape, scissors, wires, glue stick and glue gun, twine and different colors of fabric dye.

For big flowers and dolls, husks of yellow corn are used because they are bigger than those of other varieties. Yellow corn is used as feeds and is widely grown in Pangasinan. The province produces 65 percent of the corn production in the Ilocos region, Ferdinand Matro, DA Ilocos regional corn coordinator, says. A total of 35,000 hectares are planted to corn yearly.

After the cobs are removed, the other corn plant parts such as the stalk, husks, silk (hair-like part) and roots are usual-



CREATE something beautiful from waste.



PEN holder PHOTOS BY YOLANDA SOTELO-FUERTE

ly thrown away.

But with creative imagination, all these wastes become works of art, with the husks turned into petals and leaves, the stalks into stems or branches, the silk as fillers of pots or vases (instead of moss), and roots as, well, roots.

"The trainees are usually surprised when they see their artistic creations. They can

hardly believe that they can do beautiful things out of something that almost has zero value," Abenoja says.

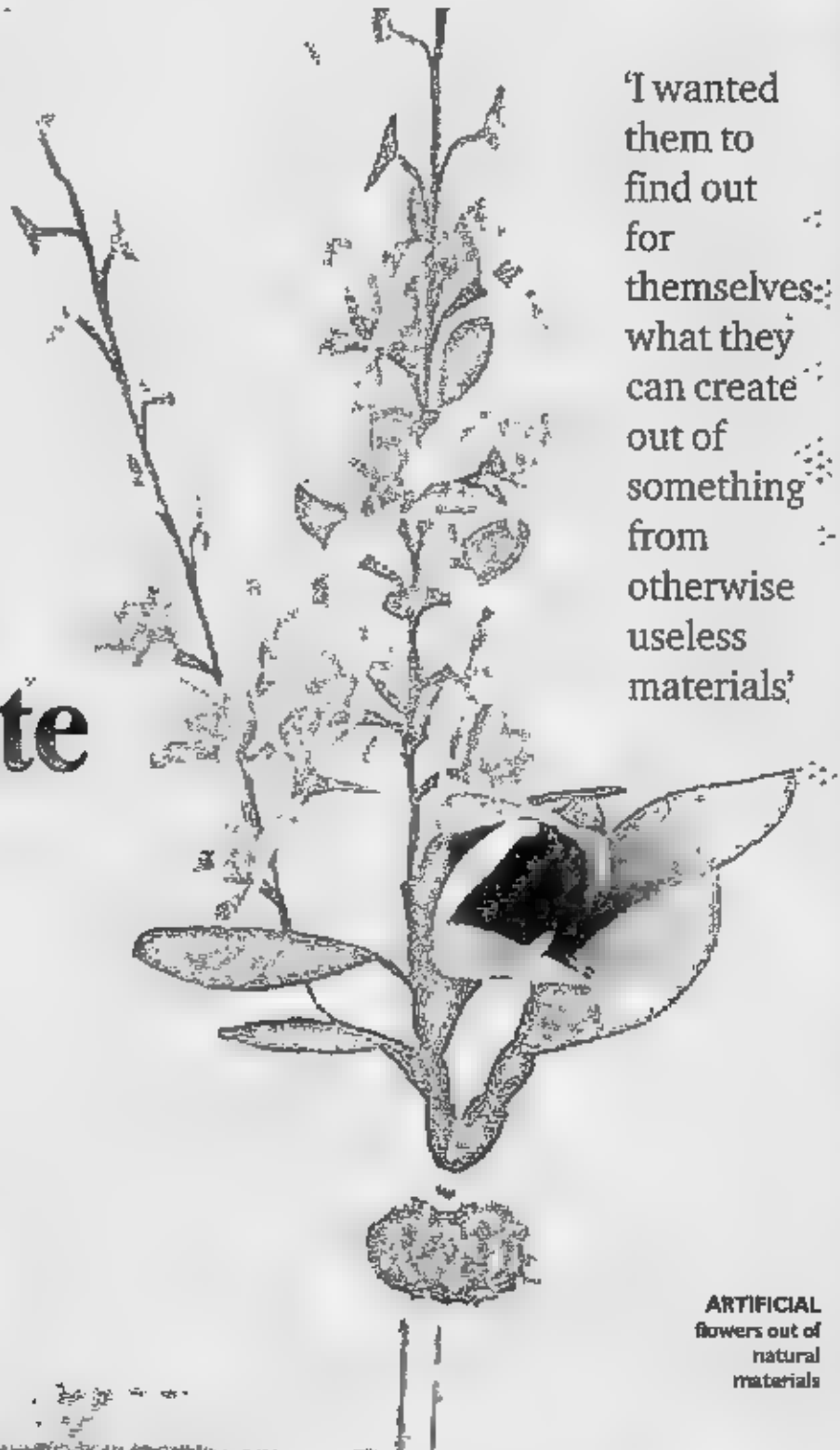
She challenged them to discover more their artistic abilities by imitating real flowers, and to create other usable crafts like bags and caps.

Unlike projects that end after the training had ended, the DA regional office plans to hold a provincewide contest on corn husk art making next year to encourage the trainees to come up with better design and craftsmanship, Matro says.

Businessman Rosendo So says that he has contacted his friends in Metro Manila to market the products locally and abroad. An eight-hectare corn exposition farm in Carmen in Rosales town is also under way. The sale of the produce from the farm will help finance the livelihood project of the trainees, So says. A store in front of the farm will be put up to display the products.

One of the trainees, May Rollo, president of the federation of Rural Improvement Clubs of Villasis, said the RIC will go into full production of corn husk art works for export to Guam.

She says an RIC member, who now lives in Guam, will market the products in that state "where people are fond of hand made products."



'I wanted them to find out for themselves what they can create out of something from otherwise useless materials'

ARTIFICIAL flowers out of natural materials



COLORFUL flowers designed by Cariaga

Interesting facts and figures on Christmas shopping

• THE BIGGEST SHOPPING DAY of the year is Dec. 23

• Some 44,000 kilos of pork and beef are sold on that day when on an average day only 9,000 kilos of pork and beef are sold. About 43,000 pieces of whole chicken are sold, the average is 6,000 pieces. Some 30,000 pieces of ham are sold; only 2,600 pieces of ham are sold daily.

• Grapes become the star today, Dec. 30. About 9,000 kilos of grapes are sold on this day. On average, less than 100 kilos of grapes are sold per day.

• In retail, Christmas begins in July. You will normally hear Christmas music playing in the marketing department as holiday marketing plans and programs are completed in July.

• The store personnel celebrate their Christmas party in January or February as they are too busy during the season to do any partying.

• The stores do not close even on Christmas and New Year's day. They do, however, have shortened hours.

• As soon as December hits, the stores are on a 24/7 shift, and deliveries double. Some 80 ten-wheeler trucks are dispatched to do daily deliveries to all the stores. (From the Rustan's Supercenters Inc.)

Tips on having a truly meaningful celebration

'TIS THE SEASON ONCE again for good food, a lot of cheer, hope, and let's face it—excesses.

This year you may want to do your share in reducing your impact by having a truly meaningful holiday celebration

Below are some helpful tips to get you started

Vegetables: Buy local, seasonal, winter vegetables and support your local organic farmer and farmers market whenever possible.

Avoid: Out of season fruit and vegetables and over packaged food

Meat: Avoid imported meats that have traveled thousands of miles by air before reaching the shops

Wine: Check your bottle of wine to see if the cork is real. To make real corks not a single tree is cut down—just a small part of the bark is removed, leaving the tree alive. In fact insisting on real cork helps maintain one of the most environmentally friendly industries possible.

Avoid: Putting bottles in the waste bin, remem-

ber to recycle all bottles.

Waste: Remember to gather up and recycle everything from bottles and cans to wrapping paper and Christmas crackers.

Avoid: Disposable items on the Christmas table and buy produce with the least packaging

Christmas Cards: Only buy cards that are printed on recycled paper. Even better send electronic Christmas cards to friends and family on the Internet and save on paper and resources

Avoid: Throwing your old cards in the bin—find a recycling point

Presents: Buy presents that make a difference to the world as well as individuals. Look for gifts with natural components such as organic cotton or handcrafted toys made from wood. Buy Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified wood products—from wooden spoons to chairs these products really do make a difference to the management of our forests.

Avoid: Leaving unwanted gifts in the back of a

cupboard. Pass unwanted presents to your local charity shop—there is sure to be someone who will like them!

Long lasting gifts: With-out the batteries: Use more imagination and less money—buy gifts that don't need batteries. Not only do batteries contain all sorts of nasty heavy metals and chemicals, they also need vast amounts of energy to produce—well out of proportion to their power output.

Avoid: Buying appliances like televisions and stereos that consume large amounts of electricity while on standby. Better yet, don't leave appliances plugged in when you're not using them to avoid wasting energy. While you're at it, turn off all the lights when not in use.

Energy saving snuggles: Get family and friends together, snuggle up, play Christmas games and leave the car behind

With these simple practical ideas, you can make a difference not only this season but all year round.



PSBank
USDollar
TIME DEPOSIT

	\$1,000 to 9,999	\$10,000 to 49,999	\$50,000 to 99,999	\$100,000 and up
1 month	3.50%	3.50%	3.63%	3.75%
2 months	3.50%	3.63%	3.75%	3.88%
3 months	3.63%	3.75%	3.75%	3.88%
6 months	3.75%	3.88%	3.88%	4.00%
12 months	3.88%	4.00%	4.13%	4.25%

Rates are subject to change without prior notice, on per annum basis and subject to 7.5% withholding tax.

Manage your account online via PSBank Remote Banking. Open a time deposit now in any of 163 branches nationwide. For more information, text PSBANK USD <your name> <branch no.> <email address> then send to 381 773 for Smart or 8817 8802327 for Globe and other networks or visit our website at www.psbank.com.ph

Member of the PNC Insurance Deposit Insurance for each Depositor is P250,000

Sunday LIFESTYLE

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

Page/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 386 (Smart) or email us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Lutong Pinoy

By Gilda Cordero-Fernando

THE LIFE DRAMA OF THE PINOY
Is like Filipino cooking
No recipe, no formula,
All pakiramdam,
kutob and tantya.
A whole lot of rekado
Sama-sama, halo-halo
Tikim timpla,
Tikim timpla.

Once removed from the stove
You think tapos na?
Hindi pa!
Now comes fine tuning:
Patis, kalamansi, bagoong,
Vinegar, garlic, toyo
And siling labuyo!
Ay—sarap na!
Don't edit a French chef
like that—lagot ka!

Adobo ni lola is different
from adobo ni Nancy
and adobo ni Rosa.
One hundred ways to cook adobo
Pati lumpia, pati pansit
iba-iba.

The pinoy's tastebuds
Are variegated—
To originality and multi-tasking
He's fatally oriented.

In a restaurant each pinoy
will order his own,
But "Waiter! Put everything
in the middle kasi everyone
will share-share."
One slice of cake
—six forks!

Please pass that tuna belly,
Patikim naman ng teriyaki!

In da future to come
When experiences abroad
Come home to roost
Ano kayang bagong potahe
Ang susunod
Sa choc-nut ice cream,
Duryan pie and bibingcrepe,
Taba ng talangka pasta,
Sinigang na corned beef
And kamote bread?

Shall we ever sit down quietly
To a meal, agreeing finally,
Tamang tama ang timpla,
Oh my gulay, okay din pati kulay

The pinoy has drunk the dregs
of sour tuba and bitter eggs
Husto na! Tama na!
Huwag makibaboy, makubaka!

We're descended, after all,
from Lemurians and Maharlika,
We've tasted diwata wine -
We know what it is to be sublime.
So we mounted a revolution
We replaced the whole cast,
The company we've chosen
is honorable at last.

Joke lang! Sori, pangarap!
Tinatawag na Forecast.
Aalsa ba ang masa?
Puputok ba ang upper crust?
Kamung palaman ng sandwich
Shake, rattle and roll
Whom do we trust?

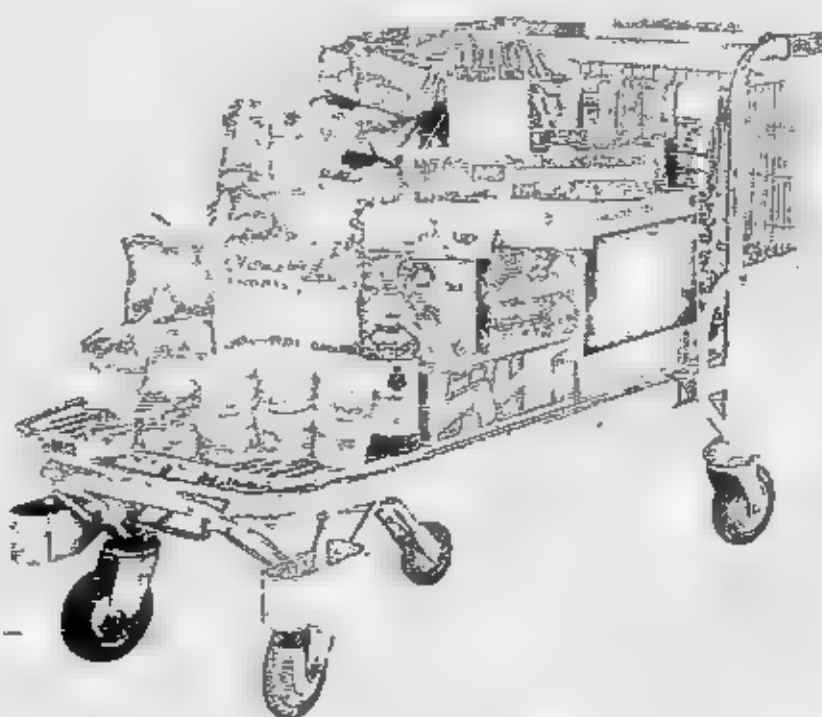
Count your blessings

As we say goodbye to 2007 and hello to 2008, take the time to count your blessings. It will fill your heart with gratitude and grace, as it did for the 12 people who shared their lists on pages C2-4. We invite readers to email us about their blessings at lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph.

One

BPI EXPRESS GREEN

Buy



Take One + One

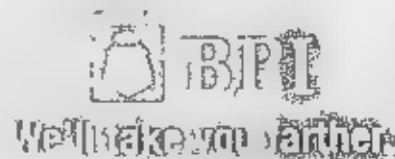
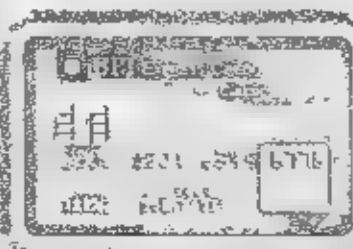


FREE!



Get two 500 ml bottles of One White Tea FREE!

Shop at least 200 in participating Makro supermarkets
using your BPI Express credit card.
From Dec 12 to Dec 31, 2007.



Name your blessings one by one . . .

By Constantino C. Tejero

LET'S HAVE A TRUCE ON UN-happiness. Let there be a cease-fire with the ugly, the petty, the violent, particularly at this time of the year. As one of the Karamazov brothers suggests, why don't we go out to the garden and praise one another?

Yes, we can truly count our blessings without sounding Pollyannaish, in the same way we can countenance our realities without looking—what? Silas Marneresque?

In a recent index of happiness, three of the most prominent factors that emerged were family, job and country. We had known that all along—in fact, it's all common sense—only that we hadn't formally acknowledged it until the statistics came out.

And what do you know, amid the muted disbelief of skeptics and apocalyptic, bleeding hearts and contrarians, the statistics shows we are among the happiest peoples on earth.

Despite our bottom-feeder status in terms of economic progress, political killings and government corruption

then, we can still stand with heads held up in the community of nations. For one, we can always take comfort in the international recognition of our singers, dancers and boxers.

For another, there may be snakes and monkeys, crocodiles and donkeys in the Philippine Congress but, at least, they don't throw punches and stuff and fall into fits of screaming, slapping and hair-pulling as they habitually do in other countries.

And here's the big news: In the latest international index on gender equality, we are No. 6, the only Asian country on the Top 10—way above the United States, Japan, United Kingdom, Germany, France, China, Russia. Which means women are generally living it up in this country, much more than most First World societies and the superpowers can offer.

Everything's cheap

What's not news but should be a constant reminder to sourgrapes and sourpusses is that, the Philippines is one of the cheapest countries in the world. Stroll any day through our

malls and marketplaces and see for yourself. Where else can you get a slab of Chilean sea bass or fillet of sole for about P100?

Culture here comes cheap. Enter an art gallery and chances are you'd find a small gem by a National Artist for less than P20,000, or even a small masterpiece by a master for P5,000.

The masses are regularly treated to free concerts, ballets and film festivals in parks and malls. The cash-strapped Pinoy is no stranger to "The Nutcracker" and Paganini.

Books, too, are cheap. If they're not getting any cheaper, sooner or later they'd be put on sale at 50-percent discount or more. That cineaste's bible, "1001 Movies You Must See Before You Die," that we got for about P2,000 four years ago now has an updated 2007 edition for only P1,200.

Cheapest of all are the bootleg DVDs, with a collection of up to 36 titles on a single disc which can be had for P50. Get 10 discs and you'd be watching one movie a day the whole year for P500.

For more eminently watchable copies, there are single titles on DVD-9 at P60 apiece. It may get other people's hackles up, but it can never be denied that this is the single factor that has democratized art cinema to such a degree in this country.

The range of titles alone is paralyzing, not to say these can be found in stalls from streets to malls from Apari to Jolo. Here Souleymane Cissé's masterpiece "The Wind" jostles with the Russ Meyer gem "Faster, Pussycat! Kill! Kill!" And a Pontecorvo or Wajda political-cinema classic lies side by side with the contemporary cult favorite "Killer Pussy."

Identity and importance

As for happiness in the workplace, you're more likely to find it in a small-paying job that you enjoy than in one with a humongous salary but with a deadening routine and soul-destroying compromises. A journalist's is neither big nor small, but it is always an important job—and that's what keeps our heads up high.

Office politics can assume the hor-

house atmosphere of the court of Nero, but we can countenance villainy anytime so long as there's an acknowledgement of a job well done.

Now, the family—well, it's just there. The years have gone, a few have passed away, some differences remain, a few things stay unresolved, but the family is still intact.

We may now be living apart leading our respective lives, but, as with the typical Filipino family, we still get together on special occasions wherever we are. We still return to our parents' places, kiss the hands or foreheads of elders, even go to Mass together.

We know, of course, that family, which could mean relatives and friends, is the ultimate indicator of happiness. You may have become an orphan but the memory of it gives you confidence and strength, a sense of personhood, of identity and importance.

You may be living alone but the thought of seeing your family sooner or later is what keeps you going through the next year.

Back to the tribe

By Xandra Ramos-Padilla

THERE WAS A TIME WHEN I LIVED the expatriate life, believing that making it in the global scene would mean that I was accomplishing things. But I took a 180-degree turn, and came home.

I originally hesitated about coming home because I knew that moving back would mean rejoining a "tribal culture" and the daily routine usually dictated by family traditions. But reflecting on the past year, I am surprised that all the dreams I hoped for had been realized, and all because I had come home.

In one year, I got married, got pregnant and gave birth to the sweetest baby girl.

The pregnancy was very easy. I hardly did anything except go to the doctor every month, drink milk and vitamins, and the baby miraculously grew inside me on autopilot. When we went for ultrasound and saw our baby's face, she became very real to us, and we prepared ourselves to be parents.

After attending birthing classes for four Sundays and reading every book on pregnancy from National Book Store, I was all set for the birthing process. I was able to use the new birthing room and bed in Makati Med. My husband and mom took turns by my bedside while I was being induced. We were just reading magazines and doing crossword puzzles while waiting. The baby was too cozy inside and would not come out. Dr. Tangkoko-Lopez monitored me constantly but af-

ter two days of contractions without progress, she told me I can go for a third day of labor or give birth by cesarean section. So my baby was born on the same day as our family matriarch, which I believe will bring her much luck. My husband was in the delivery room with me.

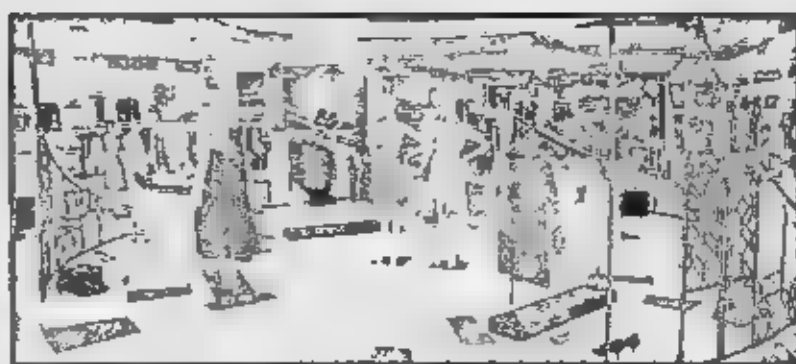
When my baby was brought out of the delivery room, my mom leapt forward to greet her first grandchild. She was immediately welcomed by her new *lola*, *lola* and *tito* waiting outside.

Hooked

The baby roomed with us. My husband was afraid of carrying a tiny infant but at first cry, daddy was hooked. He picked her up in his arms and fell in love.

It takes a tribe to raise a baby. We stayed in my mom's house for the first three weeks, and we had round-the-clock help. My husband was very supportive during my recovery, assisting me in going to the bathroom or getting out of bed. My mother-in-law visited us almost every day to help care for the baby. My husband became an expert in swaddling, burping and rocking. The baby's closet is now full of gifts from friends and family who visited that we hardly had to buy her anything.

I was very determined to breastfeed the baby so she can have all its benefits, but we had a very difficult time in the beginning, as she and I were both learning about proper latching on techniques. She would get angry and frustrated or fall asleep and we were worried that she was not getting enough food. The lactation consultant,



Lita Nery, came almost every other day to help us. She, the nurse, and my husband did all they can to assist me with pillows or drinks or holding the baby's head. I stayed home with her so I would not miss a feeding and I drank potato soup, *malunggay* pills and did everything I could to increase my supply.

Fertility, creativity

In Caroline Myss' book, the energy center for fertility is also the same as the one for creativity. We spent the first half of the year planning Crossings Trinoma, a specialty home and fashion lifestyle store. Ideas and images filed away in the back of my brain from travels inspired the store. Crossings Trinoma paved the way for two other stores, which we made into all-fashion epicenters, The Ramp Crossings Podium and Glorietta. Building these stores during late pregnancy and launching them while taking care of a newborn was a juggling act. The interior designers and the Crossings team put the store together. By sheer willpower and magic the team pulled together and succeeded in opening the stores with tight deadlines. So now I have not just one but four new babies.

I can now proudly look at the stores' eclectic mix of Asian designer brands as well as talented entrepreneurial designers creating affordable Filipino fashion labels, and I know I could not have achieved this if I had stayed abroad. I like to think we are offering an alternative in the competitive world of fashion and home retailing.

I've gone back to work part time, and I break up my day so I can go home to my baby to feed her. Never mind the hassle of going back and forth through the traffic. Whenever I need to go out, I can leave my daughter in either *lola*'s house with the *yaya* where there are many willing arms to carry her.

When I bring her to family gatherings it is a joy to see my relatives' faces light up when they see this new addition to our family. These are the benefits of living in a tribe.

This holiday season was the best one ever as we celebrated our first Christmas as a family. It is tiring to run around to attend four family reunions in 24 hours, but it feels like everything fell into place. I can't imagine not being part of this tribe and I wouldn't trade this life for any other adventure in the world.

Grateful for leaving my comfort zone

By Pam Pastor

AT THE BEGINNING OF THE year, I declared 2007 as my year for adventure, as the year I would leave my comfort zone and try to live my life more fully. I've done just that—and I am grateful.

For the chance to be braver than usual and the opportunity to take the plunge into new things.

For living in a country that has welcomed my explorations, that has allowed me to camp on its beaches, climb its volcanoes and leap off its cliffs.

For being able to leap off other cliffs—big, figurative ones.

For being able to bond with some of the most amazing people I have ever met.

For a family that treats me like an adult except when a little spoiling is necessary.

For friends who are my pillars, who have shown me unwavering love and support.

For love that has led to self-discovery.

For lessons learned after being trapped in a tent that was being assaulted by rain, being attacked by mosquitos and falling flat on my face and my rump in many different ways.

For an office that is never boring, for work that is really a great adventure.

For being surrounded by people who drive me to do more, who inspire me creatively and who make me love my job even more.

For cameras that have helped me look at the world in a completely new way.

For a great 14-day adventure that involved three strange cities, chasing monks, killing mosquitos and taking over 40 rolls of pictures.

For being freed from the bondage of constant blogging.

For Multiply and the joys it brings.

For the chance to make music and to have people listen.

For bars that allow me to jump around onstage and don't kick me out.

For people—friends, strangers and those in-between—who never fail to surprise in good and positive ways.

For the people who make beer and vodka.

For time. I need more of it.

Thanks for the balance

By Patrick Larraga

COMING CLOSE TO FINDING THAT PROVERBIAL balance between work and play, professional life and private time, is perhaps the single most important blessing on my list.

Despite a busy work schedule, I have had the time to travel to new places with close friends and family, to share discoveries and forge stronger bonds with them.

Similarly, at the end of each working day, it is always a welcome reward to find the leisure to unwind and re-read a cherished book or ponder a favorite art piece.

Even for just a few moments, I find it particularly fulfilling to be able to reap, as one writer put it, "that rich harvest of memory and introspection" at the close of each day.

From the monumental to the mundane

By Noel and Ginggay dela Merced

AMID THE TENSION AND STRESS of 2007, we look at the glass as half full, and we are appreciative. From the monumental to the mundane, here's a random list of what we are thankful for.

... a new healthy baby girl, beautiful Chloe Dominique.

... our parents' continuing good health—nothing more important than health!

... our son Noey getting a bronze medal in Math—yes, that's super-big for us!

... Noel's improving photography skills, finally! The investment on the camera is slowly paying off.

... our company's sustained growth, thanks to the belief, trust, and support of our clients and the

Trillanes not succeeding—we have enough national problems to deal with.

... the strengthening peso

... more and more Filipinos doing well abroad in business, design, arts, and more—they make us feel so proud to be Filipino!

... commerce flourishing, which is good for the economy

... the opening of Bonifacio High Street—it's our favorite family destination now! Beautiful park and great ambience!

... heightened security in malls, hotels—makes us feel safer cause we love dining out and spending quality family time.

... the opening of Gap in Manila. Can't wait for Baby Gap as well.

... most of all, we're thankful for family and friends. They're God's best gift!



NOEL dela Merced and son Noey



An abundance of God's grace

By Agnes T. Huibonhoa

I BELIEVE THAT GOD HAS ALWAYS watched over me and my family. Despite difficulties and heartaches, things always fall into place in the end. I think it is that way for everyone. He just has a different way of working in each person's life. The new year is always a good time to stop and be grateful for all our blessings. They are so many, but what I am always

most grateful for is the color and closeness in my home: Affection, familiarity and unconditional acceptance and love; support and unity that make all obstacles surmountable; the comfort of always laughing together and never crying alone; the warmth of welcoming family members home; the opportunity to share life and memories together; the daily gift of love.

God has also blessed me with amaz-

ing friends to share many years of beautiful memories with. I am blessed, as well, with a career and activities that make me fulfilled and allow me to play a part in the community. A career that provides me with new challenges and lessons everyday, as well as allow me to collaborate with talented people that I learn so much from.

I feel blessed, as well, to have a place to always come home to and a country to be proud of. Despite our many diffi-

culties, I believe the Philippines has much to be grateful for: A warm and generous people; the resiliency and faith of the Filipino spirit; a beautiful and varied landscape; a rich and colorful culture that is ever evolving; steady and certain progress; the *bayanihan* spirit.

The abundance of God's grace is felt in everything at every moment. I think the ability to recognize it and be grateful for it is a blessing in itself.

Grateful in Shariff Kabunsuan

By Alex Y. Vergara

THROUGH THE YEARS, I'VE COME across a number of supposedly fabulous people who try to put on fulfilled, happy faces, but deep down you could somehow sense that something is amiss in their dull, miserable lives.

In contrast, I had the opportunity to travel earlier this year to a remote, God-forsaken mountain barangay in Shariff Kabunsuan, Mindanao composed of indigenous people called Tirurays.

The day we came, the people—both young and old—were in a jubilant mood since they were just discovering for themselves the wonders of electricity, thanks to individual solar panels provided by the USAID. Each family has to pay for the panels in easy installments over the next three years.

The solar cells were enough for each household to power several lights for a couple of hours, a radio and a small electric fan.

We reached the barangay on a dump truck late in the afternoon. In full tribal garb, the people greeted us with dances and ethnic music coming from traditional instruments like bells and gongs.

In lieu of fresh garlands, they welcomed us with woven necklaces they themselves made. Through it all, I couldn't help but feel like a long-lost member of Tiruray royalty.

It's probably safe to say that with or without electricity, this people live a hard life. For one, they have no running water, much less a water-sealed toilet, that I had to set aside my morning rituals until we had reached Cotabato City the next evening.

Most of these folks are subsistence farmers who have to walk or ride on

horseback for several miles down rugged and muddy mountain trails just to get to the nearest bus stop—if there's a bus at all—to transport their produce.

Risky

I experienced it for myself, riding in what they call Skylabs or *habal-habal*—motorcycles that have been reconfigured to fit in four people including the driver. It was, indeed, a far cry from the stretch limo I once cruised in with a group of Filipino journalists in Las Vegas.

Now I know what it feels like to join a motocross. As we zigzagged our way through driving rain and occasional bursts of lightning, with only several feet separating us from Kingdom Come in the form of steep ravines, I really thought I was going to die.

And if one is brave enough to venture into the mountains, he's better off leaving the car or jeepney behind. Apart from the Skylabs, which charge an arm and a leg, the vehicle of choice in the hinterlands of Shariff Kabunsuan and Maguindanao is either a big sturdy bus or, like the way we came in, a dump truck.

The problem was that it had rained the entire night and throughout the next day so the driver of the dump truck refused to drive us back to the *municipio*. He would rather stay put for fear of his truck getting stuck in the mud along the way. I had no choice but to hold on tight and leave my fate entirely to God and the Skylab driver.

The night before, during dinner, I was touched to find out that the village leaders even went through the trouble of having several chickens slaughtered (the stuff must have cost them a small fortune) to cook *tinola* for us city folks.

Yet what I saw in their faces amazed and inspired me no end—a spontaneous kind of joy

mixed with hope that things were going to get a bit better because of the availability, no matter how limited, of electricity.

Children as well as the lone barangay teacher and his wife were beside themselves with excitement as the kids could now study way into the night, while their moms tended to various forms of livelihood projects such as basket weaving under a specially made fluorescent light.

For granted

Imagine, stuff we urbanites normally take for granted were now within easy reach of these people: they no longer had to go down the mountain and charge their cell phones in the town since charging was now just a plug away; meetings and village dances (you'd be amazed at their pirated repertoire, which included Beyoncé, Black Eyed Peas, Pussycat Dolls and, of course, Madonna!) no longer had to be confined during the day.

Of course, the presence of electricity wasn't some sort of magic wand that could instantly wipe all their troubles away. For all I know, some of them might be more miserable now that they have access to it.

Still, with such a development, the pros still outweigh the cons. Indeed, I can go on and on about how happy and optimistic they have become, but the points of my story are:

• We're far luckier and blessed than most other people;

• We do not know the value of certain things (and loved ones) that we normally take for granted—electricity and running water, for instance—until we lose them completely;

• You are as happy as you allow yourself to be. In other words, you determine your own happiness. You're gravely mistaken if you depend on others for it;

• You can thrive, if not bloom, wherever you're planted, be it in Manila, Cebu, or Shariff Kabunsuan;

• You can't change certain situations (and that includes dead-end jobs, impossible co-workers, nosy neighbors, fair-weather friends and corrupt governments), but you can certainly change the way you view or deal with such situations;

• Finally, despite the bummers that come our way with unexpected regularity both as individuals and as a nation, life is beautiful and too precious to fritter away brooding over certain things, events and people we can never ever change—at least, not for the moment.

Blessings come in the most unexpected guises

By Sheila Ramos

BLESSINGS COME IN the most unexpected packages.

The last year started with a knee injury that kept me wheelchair-bound, but ended in a round of golf on Christmas day!

... My kids started badly needing eyeglasses but went on to prove that spectacles can't keep you to being a mere spectator in sports! They continued to pursue basketball, karate and golf.

... And then there are the teachers, tutors, coaches, doctors and, most especially, grandparents, who shared with my husband and I, the daunting task of parenting!

A successful surgery in the family proved that things do work out for themselves somehow.

My two brothers who have settled overseas are finding their way back home through work or the holidays.

... It was never too late for a mother to change her ways and communicate better with her children.

... There was a failed friendship that reminded me to treasure my old ones and inspired me to build new ones.

... Our team in Tokyo Tokyo offers each other great support as family members would, keeping the fun in the job despite demanding business pressures of an ultra-competitive industry.

... The year was marked by typhoons, explosions, and a coup, but buffered by a growing culture of volunteerism and charity, giving a lot more sense to our day-to-day existence.

At the top of my list is the unconditional love from the happy boys in my life, which allows me to take the risks that I do.

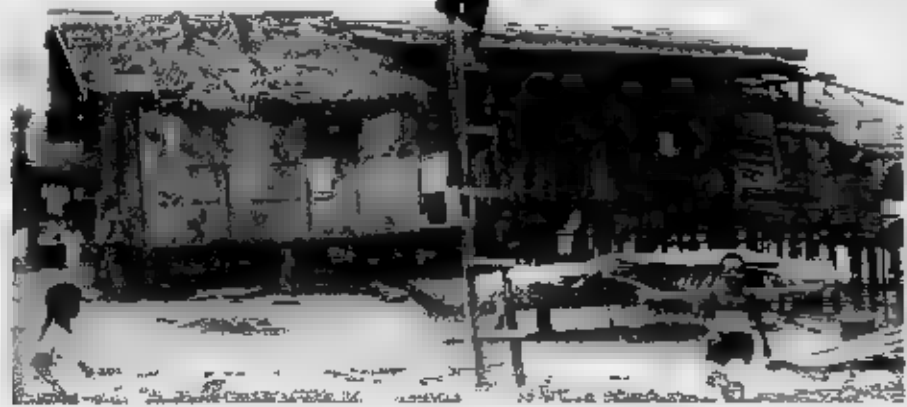
... And of course, nothing beats the hugs and kisses I get every morning which make me want to count my blessings everyday, over and over again.



8 for which I am thankful

By Ria Francisco-Prieto

1. The good health of family members and loved ones
2. The baby Paolo and I are expecting
3. Paolo's new business deals and the growth of his current company
4. A peaceful family life and a home full of laughter
5. Old and new friends
6. A good relationship with Paolo and all the members of our families
7. Our work
8. Our Sunday ritual as a family



New Year countdown

TO CELEBRATE THE NEW YEAR countdown, Eastwood City presents festivities starting at 6 p.m. at the Eastwood Central Plaza, with The Members playing songs from the 1970s. Then, The Bloomfields play lively songs from the 1960s at 7:15 p.m.

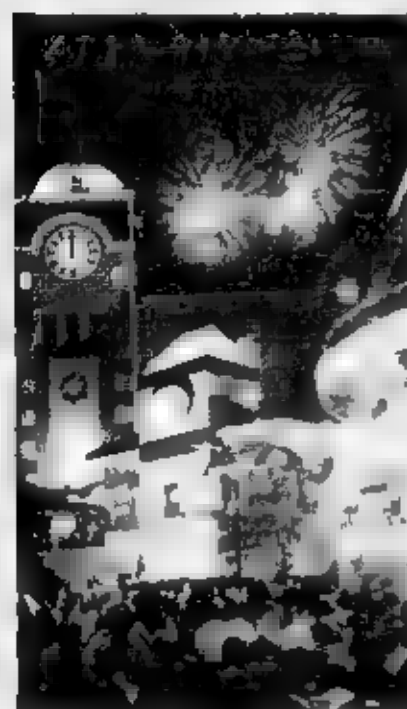
At 8:30 p.m., Richard Poon serenades with standards from the 1950s. Then, at 10 p.m., Eastwood City welcomes its new regular Monday night performer, Lala, with her debut rock alternative performance. The Rage band performs 1980s New Wave songs starting at 11:30 p.m.

At the stroke of midnight, a fireworks display and laser lights show will illuminate the entire city skyline.

Dance the night away to Brazilian samba and house music with Brigada and DJ Vhong starting at 12:30 a.m.

"With all of these exciting stars, music, and fireworks show, Eastwood City is the best place to welcome the New Year with your loved ones and friends," said Megaworld Corporation Commercial division head Kevin Tan.

To join the New Year festivities at Eastwood City, call 6876770 to 74 or text 0917-SEWCITY.



EMILY's POST

Emily Marcelo

One lucky girl

I HONESTLY THINK THAT I AM one lucky girl. No, I haven't won the lottery, or caught the heart of George Clooney. It just feels that way every time I wake up in the morning.

For one, migraine attacks are now a thing of the past and this has been such a blessing these past three years. It has plagued me so since childhood that I had seriously contemplated suicide to get it over with.

For another, my children never gave me reason to worry about their physical or mental health. They both grew up not knowing drugs, drinking alcohol or seeing the inside of a police station.

I am thankful for my job as an agony aunt. I get to see my name in three newspapers four times a week dispensing advice like I'm one of God's chosen few—not having problems myself. Being a radio commentator is also a blast—bounding and nagging people to be more aware of the problems of the environment and knowing that I am part of the solution.

And thank you, Lord, for defining my happiness in my old age into just three categories—books, food and travel. Of these I can give an accounting to You in my next journey.

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

CAP	ABBP	SLAND	VELVA
ETA	W	REAR	ABC
LORENZO	DEMED	C	PLATO
ENTR	NBA	POI	JOINTO
XAV	ERC	GAT	MEFORSTER
A	CIAT	EN	SEAT
ANON	ROCKY	GRAZIANO	
D	UR	MA	ENNUI
FRANK	ANGE	LA	AE
AGREE	AERO	JAD	BLTS
BORN	UNNEW	EARDAY	
RON	RE	OURS	ORSEA
CUR	AY	HANK	GREENBERG
ELEGY	MON	ATV	CAO
DEEPEE	FFER	AL	
MAJLS	MELE	ANNEAL	
BE	SYROS	ALEXANDER	
EMOTE	P	OAR	E
FOTDS		LEFROST	EV
IRAN		LEATRO	ELIA
TYLER		OBSESS	DEF



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

STO. NIÑO FESTIVAL
Province of Batanes, January 1
Contact: (078) 846-2435

STO. NIÑO FESTIVAL
Manila, January 5-13
Contact: (02) 525-7082

24th BORACAY INTERNATIONAL FUN BOARD CUP
Boracay, Aklan, January 6-13
Contact: (02) 831 7845

FEAST OF BLACK NAZARENE
Quilap, Manila, January 9
Contact: (02) 527-5185

LINGAYEN GULF LANDING
Lingayen, Pangasinan, January 9
Contact: (076) 542-8007

STO. NIÑO FIESTA
Shrine of Sto. Niño, Sto. Niño Parish, San Gabriel Parish, Tuguegarao City, January 11-20
Contact: (078) 844-4448

PANGSIDAAN FESTIVAL
Navotas, January 12-18
Contact: (02) 525-7082

BAKA FESTIVAL
San Pablo, Isabela, January 15
Contact: (078) 501-0973

SINULOG FESTIVAL SA MA-LITBOS
Maitbog, Southern Leyte, January 15
Contact: 0917-6202632



JOSEPH H. DURAND
Secretary
Department of Tourism

1st OFFICIAL & FORMAL HOISTING OF PHILIPPINE FLAG IN MINDANAO
Buluan City, January 17
Contact: (085) 225-4041

TALONG FESTIVAL
Villas, Pangasinan, January 18
Contact: (075) 564-4008

HALAD SA STO. NIÑO
Midsayap, Cotabato, January 19
Contact: (084) 421-1110

PASUNGAY FESTIVAL
San Joaquin, Iloilo, January 19
Contact: (033) 314-7001

LAKBAYAN FESTIVAL/FEAST OF STO. NIÑO DE TONDO
Tondo, Manila, January 19
Contact: (02) 525 7082

CARACOL NG MAKATI
Makati City, January 20
Contact: (02) 896-0277

BAMBINO FESTIVAL
Pasig, January 20
Contact: (02) 525 7082

KAHINILAN FESTIVAL
Liborad, Buluan City, January 20
Contact: (085) 341-6413

KADAYAN FESTIVAL
Pambujan, Northern Samar, January 1st Full Moon
Contact: 0918-5987578

KALIBO ATHLETIC
Kalibo, Aklan, January 19-20
Contact: (038) 262-3241

SINULOG FESTIVAL
Cebu City, January 20
Contact: (032) 253-3700

LONGANZA FESTIVAL
Vigan City, Ilocos Sur, January 22
Contact: (077) 722-8772

PIRILISA FESTIVAL
Jones, Isabela, January 25-27
Contact: (078) 894-3001

PANBI FESTIVAL
Cabagan Square Park, Isabela, January 25
Contact: (078) 636-3389

HANDOG NG SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY SABAGUIO
Melvin Jones Grandstand, Baguio City, January 26-27
Contact: 074-4422/93 loc. 285

ILOILO DINAGYANG FESTIVAL
Iloilo City, January 26-27
Contact: (033) 337-2172

MUSIKAINAN FESTIVAL
Cabadbaran, Agusan del Norte, January 28
Contact: (086) 341-2185



SCHEDULES OF THE FESTIVALS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

Top 5 blessings

By Queensa Lee-Chus

5 STUDENTS. TEACHING DOES not financially pay as well as other professions, but the emotional rewards are immeasurable. I am happy that the majority of my college students in math and psychology try hard to do their best, despite family problems or adolescent angst. People say I look young for my age—the secret is to surround myself with young people. Your contagious vibrancy, students, is a blessing.

Aside from teenage college students, I have also had the privilege of teaching public and private-school teachers in graduate school. Some of them are older than I, but their energy does not waver. One teacher offers free tutorials after classes, on top of a tiring day of handling 80 youngsters. Another thinks of creative ways to help his students master math. A third ensures that a sexually abused student will never

again experience such trauma. Your inspiring dedication, teachers, is a blessing.

4 Colleagues. The daily routine of teaching can be physically and emotionally draining. Not only do we challenge students intellectually, we also have to practically act as their surrogate parents as well. Many students confide in me about their family and relationship issues, and while I am grateful for their trust, helping them cope with depression, substance abuse, and family conflict is taxing. I turn to my colleagues to recharge myself. Your empathetic companionship, co-teachers, is a blessing.

I also deeply appreciate the efforts of my colleagues on the Ateneo Best Practices team, who share parenting insights with thousands of public school families. They help develop children into citizens our country can be proud of. Your unlimited generosity, colleagues, is a blessing.

3 Friends. In our hectic lives, work is the priority. For the last several months, our high-school batch has been planning for our 25th reunion next year, and my participation so far has been to read a group messages. At times, I feel guilty for not taking a more active role, but when I witness how enthusiastic my classmates are, I rest easy. Your warm-hearted support, high school batch mates, is a blessing.

I used to host get-togethers for my college barkada, but again, overloaded schedules get in the way. But I am so proud of them. Several are senior officers of big companies, yet they find time to volunteer in the parish and the community. Others are balancing corporate life with academe. Once we brainstormed on creating a fund to help underprivileged kids have access to education. Your steadfast integrity, college friends, is a blessing.

2 Readers and mentors. It is a misconception to say that Filipinos cannot do math, or that they do not write letters. I have received more than a thousand messages from readers since I started writing for the INQUIRER, from a 6-year-old girl who sent her slum book picture in return for an autograph, to a 95-year-old engineer who asked for brainteasers to keep his mind active. I also get more than 200 entries to my Christmas puzzle contest every December; the prize is one of my books (and not cash). I started writing for Lifestyle this June, and every week, I hear from readers. Parents request an article on communication or leadership; teachers appreciate innovative strategies and educators; students ask for tips in taking exams and mastering math. Someone once asked, "How do you not run out of things to write about?" Simple, I just open my inbox and find out what readers want to know. Your constant enthusiasm,

readers, is a blessing.

I never thought that I would become a teacher, but with the help of mentors, education has become my life's calling. Ateneo is my second home, and I am fortunate to have been guided by Jesuits and professors from various disciplines. I am also blessed to be writing for the INQUIRER, whose editors, publishers, and staff have always been encouraging. Publishers ensure that my books remain relevant and accessible to the public. Your steady guidance, mentors, is a blessing.

1 Family. Sometimes we take our families for granted, yet they are the wind beneath our wings. I spend hours standing in class everyday, and my feet ache afterward. My husband massages them every night. My son pitches in, too, energetically pounding my back with his little hands. Our cuddles in bed are the highlight of my day. Your unconditional love, my dearest ones, is the sweetest blessing of all.

ROOTS AND WINGS

Cathy Babao-Guballa

You are responsible for your contentment



THIS YEAR, THE BIGGEST DECISION I made was to stop working full-time to concentrate on my family and in transitioning my son into his new school. The year 2007 taught me the valuable lesson of learning contentment and just allowing myself to be in God's flow in the different areas of my life, allowing Him to lead and place me where I am most needed.

I always like to joke that today I am "poorer" in some of the things that I used to indulge in, but also richer in the things that truly matter. It is human to want what is on the other side of the fence, but having learned contentment this past year, I've realized that everything I ever needed was just right under my nose. Oftentimes, the Lord will use challenges to help us learn the rules of contentment.

Here are a few rules from Christian author, speaker and songwriter Terri McFadden on how we can begin counting our blessings and attain true contentment in the new year.

- Learn how to have conversations with God. Whenever you feel lonely or depressed, the natural thing to do is to call a friend or someone you can pour your heart to. For others, eating or shopping presents a temporary balm to the pain. It will be much easier if we just sit quietly and pour out our sentiments to God. "Conversations with God fill your heart with peace, contentment and joy and when you take the time to really listen, He will show you how to fill the void in a way that is practical and productive."

- Learn how to give yourself away. When you share your time, talent or treasure with others who are in need, the Lord will give you a new appreciation of your blessings. Last May, together with friends Alya Honasan, Vina Francisco and Dim-

ples Rara, I put together Silver Linings 82, a small outreach for the Bicol mothers badly affected by the typhoons. It was a small act of kindness in which we gave the women toiletry kits for their everyday use, but the activity gave our lives deeper meaning and appreciation for the little things we usually take for granted.

- Learn that you are responsible for your contentment. McFadden says that it is very important that we do not become so emotionally dependent that we make prisoners out of our husbands, boyfriends, children, colleagues, and friends. My husband and I both underwent major career transitions this year and for a while it was quite tense in our household. We had to constantly remind ourselves that this was another exercise where God was teaching us, stretching our spirits so that we could learn to be content under any circumstance and that we were responsible for our own contentment individually, and together, as a family.

Here are some suggestions from McFadden on how we can secure our own and our family's contentment in the coming year:

- Spend time with God every morning. Get yourself a devotional and a Bible and soak up His word. They say that the Bible really means Basic Instructions Before Leaving Earth—a life instruction manual to navigate the road ahead.

- Spend time with your family—listen and encourage, don't criticize. Children love affirmation, so be generous in giving it at every chance you get.

- Be slow to anger and quick to forgive—yourself, your spouse and your children. Ask yourself—Is this a matter of life and death? Or, will this really matter 10 years from now?

- Take a daily walk/exercise/nap—I have found the 30-minute power nap to be an indispensable tool in keeping my sanity. Parenting after 40, with all the attendant hormonal changes, both for men and women, can be a challenge. Work on your strengths but also take extra care of yourself so you can keep up with the challenges of parenting. Teens and young children require a lot of energy!

- Avoid negative communication. Steer clear of emotional vampires or people who enjoy putting other people down. Difficult as it may be, pray for those who like to persecute you. Let God take care of it.

- Don't be afraid of change, or of trying new things. There is nothing like learning new things with your children and going on adventures with your spouse or your kids.

- Have at least one friend who can make you laugh. In 2007, I grew immensely from the pruning of some relationships. In their place, God strengthened old bonds and also brought in new people, new experiences and new avenues for joy.

E-mail the author at cathybabao@gmail.com

Know your astrology allies

By Marites Allen

ALTHOUGH CHINESE ASTROLOGY believes that each of the 12 animal signs has its distinguishing characteristics, it also acknowledges that there are certain groupings of the animal signs that tend to think and behave alike. Because their thought processes are similar, they will tend to get along, and are said to be supportive of each other. Despite their different natures, their actions will tend to complement and bring out the best in each other. Thus pairings, partnerships, and marriages between any two animal signs within any of these groupings, also called the affinity triangles, have a better chance of success. It would save a lot of heartaches then, to know who your astrology allies are.

The Competitors: Rat, Monkey, and Dragon

These personalities are action-oriented, highly competitive, positive and determined. The Rat, who is massively insecure, benefits from the Dragon's courage and superior self-confidence. The headstrong Dragon needs the craftiness of the Monkey or the Rat's keen eye for opportunity. The Monkey, on the other hand, is energized by the Dragon's enthusiasm and the Rat's cunning and intelligence.

The Independents: Horse, Dog, and Tiger

These free spirits of the Chinese zodiac love freedom and are quite reckless. They are emotional, subjective, and highly principled. Among the three, the Horse is the strategist, but needs the Tiger's impulsive nature to get started, or the Dog's determination to see that things get done. The ferocious Tiger needs to be balanced by the Dog's good nature, while the fiercely loyal Dog has a calming effect on the restless Horse and the short-tempered Tiger.

Trivia question

Aside from the Rabbit, which two animals are known as The Diplomats among the Chinese zodiac?

- a. Snake and Horse
- b. Tiger and Dragon
- c. Ox and Sheep

d. Sheep and Boar

For Smart, Globe and Sun subscribers: Choose from four possible answers to the question of the day and send to 2861. Call 9147888, 9147112, 4126888 or 0920 9509390.

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

Our Lady of Caysasay fluvial procession

WELL-KNOWN SCULPTOR Ramon Orlina and businessman Ernie Villavicencio, as *hermanos mayores*, revived a tradition involving the Fiesta of Our Lady of Caysasay Dec. 8 and 9.

Mass was first celebrated in the morning of Dec. 8, feast of the Immaculate Conception, at the old church in barrio Labac, Taal. Then Archbishop Ramon Arguelles celebrated Mass at 4 p.m. followed by a fluvial procession.

Before the start of the procession along the Pansipit River from Labac to the Basilica de San Martin de Tours, soprano Rochelle Gerodias and tenor Randy Gilongo sang at the old Gahol house facing the river. Mary Anne Espina was accompanist.

When the procession neared the house, Roselle Biscocho recited the *luwa* (a declamation in

honor of the Virgin Mary) and Cocoy Laurel and Mica Torre sang songs from the play "Caysasay."

That evening, lines of people waiting patiently along the river bank for the Virgin's *casco* (boat) stretched to as far away as Lemery.

Delightful picture

Young girls in colorful gowns making up the *hula* present a delightful picture. It is called the *hila* (pull) because the women pull the lights that originate from the Virgin's *carroza*.

Any parade is not complete without a *banda* to provide music. It is usually led by dancing majorettes.

In the Basilica

When the procession reached the basilica, the *hermanos* carried the miraculous image to the altar

prepared for her. People kept a Rosary vigil and sang hymns until the Mass the following day.

Orlina's daughter Ningning recited the *luwa* from memory. Her devotion to the Virgin of Caysasay was instilled in her by her grandmother Paulina Gahol Orlina who wrote the book "Taal" in 1982 and who wanted to stage a play on The Virgin, but was thwarted by some people.

Finally, her son Ramon staged the play at the Cultural Center of the Philippines' Little Theater 20 years later, in July, 2006.

Thanks to Msgr. Alberto Boon-galing of the parish pastoral council and the executive committee, the fiesta celebration was successful.

Santa Lucia well

The miraculous water from the Santa Lucia well behind the

church in Labac is helping a lot of people get well. The image of the Virgin of Caysasay was reflected in the water hundreds of years ago.

Two women were collecting water from the well when they saw the face of the Virgin. When they looked up, they saw the Virgin on a *sampaga* tree with a kingfisher or *ansay-casay* flying above her.

There is a plan to fix the surroundings of the well because the land around it has deteriorated. Those who want to help can text Ramon at 0917-8805108.

St. Therese church

The Active Group, one of the country's leading real estate developers in the past 37 years, executed recently a memorandum of agreement (MOA) to donate a parcel of land located beside the Gate 2 entrance of



TENOR Randy Gilongo, pianist Mary Ann Espina, Lay-Ann Orlina, Rachel Gerodias and Ramon Orlina

the world-class Mount Malabayat Golf & Country Club and Residential Estates in Lipa City for the proposed St. Therese of the Child Jesus Parish Church.

The MOA was signed by group chair architect Antonio A. Turalba Sr. and vice chair architect Cristina V. Turalba.

A Concelebrated Mass was held by Lipa Archbishop Ramon Arguelles with Fr. Toti Mandanas of San Sebastian Parish in Lipa and Fr. Jun Quiambao, who will be the parish priest of St. Therese of the Child Jesus Parish. Groundbreaking and blessing of the land followed.

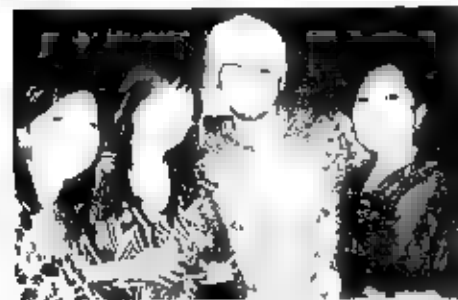
Also present during the donation were Jun Araneta, resident manager of Mount Malabayat Country Club; architect Angeline T. Puentebeja, CEO, AVT Properties; and Mike Carr, golf director.

A Holy New Year

More and more people are seeking God in many ways. I have a strong feeling that the New Year will bring more conversions, a changing of ways. Let us all pray for that so when we find the peace within ourselves, we can make it a more peaceful world. A blessed New Year to you all.



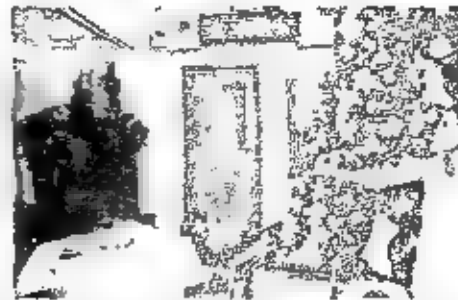
GENEROUS gang Karen Pascual, Snow Queen, Ben Chan and Miguel Pastor



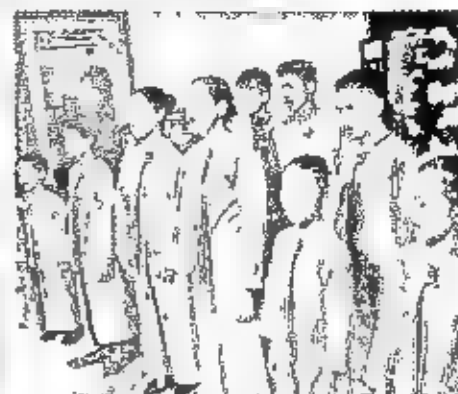
DUETS partner Billy Crawford with GMA executives Darling de Jesus, Gigi Santiago-Lara and Wilma Galvante



WHITE Christmas Holiday Celebration in winter colors



REAL snow by Sonja Ocampo



GAWAD Kalinga Children's Choir

What a blizzard 2007 was

LET IT SNOW! LET IT SNOW!
Let it snow!

I truly had a blizzard of abundant blessings this 2007. Here is my ABC list of things to be grateful for in 2007.

"A" is for my Assumption HS Batch '81 classmates, especially Popsie Gamboa and Girlie Sison, who have supported the many charitable activities that I have gotten involved in this year.

"B" is for Bench and bountifully blessed Ben Chan. For many years, Ben and his partner, Miguel Pastor, have supported all my projects with generous donations and prizes. It is always fun, especially at our annual White Christmas party where they fill my house with loot bags from their stores.

"C" and "D" are for "Celebrity Duets." Thanks to GMA's celebrity singing reality show, I won a million pesos for all the various charities I support. Moreover, I have made so many new and wonderful friends from the show-biz world. Mayor thanks goes out to all my duet partners—Kyla, Jolina, Billy, Rufa Mae, Mike, Arnel, Joey, Imago, Marilyn and Bitoy—and all those who sent out SMS messages in support. Mwah!

Canonization

"E" is for Eugenie, as in St. Marie Eugenie, the founder of the Assumption, who was canonized before a huge Assumption crowd at the Vatican in June.

"F" is for Furna and Freeway, two shops owned by good friends. Furna designer duo Chito Vijandre and Ricky Toledo never fail to bring me goodies from their exotic buying trips, while Freeway sister owners Sheree Gotuaco and Katty Qu are always coming up with new designs to enthrall me.

"G" is for graduation, as my eldest son, Bryan, finished college in May. He has truly turned out to be a mature and responsible person, a son to make any parent proud.

"H" is for Hollywood, which I had the chance to visit with Bryan in November. I love the fact that he gave me his first paycheck during that visit.



TESSA!
Tessa Prieto-Valdes

"I" is for INQUIRES, of course! Special thanks go to the Lifestyle team—Chelo, my ultra-patient editor who never fails to remind me of deadlines, Albert who makes my layout interesting, and the copyeditors who ensure that my words are grammatically correct.

"J" is for my daughter, Jordan Ariadne, now a third grader at the Assumption whose grades never fail to impress me.

Kids

"K" is for my kids, all of whom continue to inspire me to be as best a mom as can be day after day. Our computer whiz, Tyrone, finished grade school in April and is now in middle school at Beacon. His after-school tutoring needs are taken care of by the Tutoring Club.

"L" is for the Little Gym, the play school of my littlest daughter, Athena. It also sponsored my trip to Hollywood to watch the premiere of the Disney movie "Enchanted." Thanks to their programs, Athena is learning to be a most sociable toddler.

"M" is for the Mandarin Hotel, whose various restaurants my family has learned to love on Wednesday nights, when our cook has her day-off. I've also discovered their catering services for the first time, which no doubt has added quality and service to my party food.

"N" is for Nivea Baby products. Nivea head Rica King and brand manager Jackie de Vera chose Athena to be their spokesbaby this year, and she hasn't been the same since!

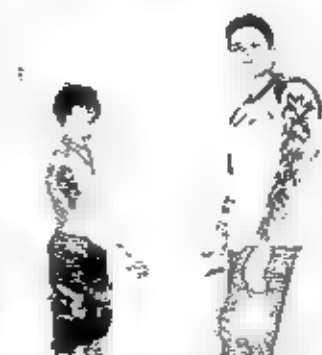
"O" is for one million, my prize from "Celebrity Duets." The second P100,000 donation was given last week to Gina Bautista Martin, president of the Associate Missionaries of the Assumption.

"P" is for Palau, which I visited on the invitation of my Aunt Mary de Leon Rufino, to spend

I got a downpour of blessings, from having great friends to winning 'Celebrity Duets'



NIVEA Baby model Athena Valdes with Nivea brand executives Ida Dixon, Rica King and Jackie de Vera



BROTHERS bonding in Bora. Tyrone Valdes and Bryan Prieto

a wonderful week scuba diving onboard the Ocean Hunter II in December

Queen of Peace

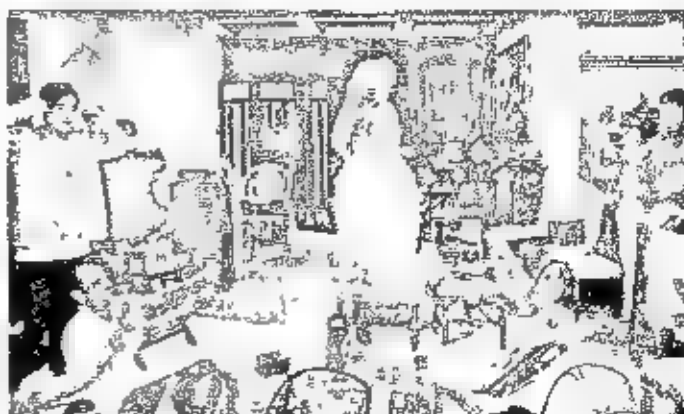
"Q" is for the Queen of Peace, our blessed Mother Mary. I must have prayed so hard to her during our Flamenco tour of Spain and Portugal together with our teacher Ginajane Grey and my dance classmates this March.

"R" is for Rajo Laurel, my mainstay designer, whose gowns were a hit on "Celebrity Duets" and at the "Enchanted" premiere. My closet is always supported by his House of Laurel, a fantastic fashion innovator that now has men's and kid's lines to boot.

"S" is for Swatch, an accessory I can't seem to do without. Thanks to Virgie Ramos of Gift Gate, I never run out of new ways to tell time.

"T" is for Trezza Group, my interior-design company that continues to soldier on looking for projects that might interest me.

"U" is for Urban Spa, that quaint little spa in the Shangri-



HAPPY New Year!



PROUD grandparents Alex and Maribi Prieto with new graduate Bryan Prieto

La Plaza Mall which turned 5 this year and still continues to put the aah in spa.

"V" is for Victor Ortega, who always makes me look my best, thanks to wigs, Shu Uemura false eyelashes and the wonders of Emphasis Salon.

"W" is for World of Feng Shui. Owner Marites Allen tells me that the coming year will be great for those born in the Year of the Rabbit, like me! I can hardly wait.

"X" is for OS X, my wonderful Mac laptop that handles all my photo and word processing each week.

"Y" is for yoga, the practice that keeps my world in balance. This year I'd like to send out a big thank you to my gurus Tristhan Choa, Pye Trinidad and the rest of my bikram yogis.

"Z" is for the last but not the least letter in my life, my zany hubby Dennis, who is always there for me, wherever it is, to clap at my singing, to edit my writing, to watch over my diving or to pay for my shopping.

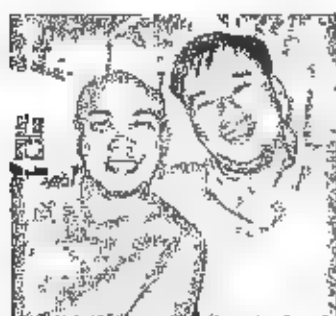
E-mail the author at seaprincess@inquirer.com.ph



PRINCESS bonding with Princess Giselle at the "Enchanted" movie premier in Hollywood



LOVELY aunt Mary de Leon



EMPHASIS Salon's Victor Ortega and Discovery Shores GM Jun Pareno



"CELEBRITY Duets" helpful friends Georgy Sibal, Popsie Gamboa and Marlon Garcia



"CELEBRITY Duets" Mighty 8: Hayden Kho Jr., Frederick Peralta, Ana Theresa Licaros, Tessa Valdes, Jessica Bunevacz, Tim Yap, Wyngard Tracy and Marny Calayan



AMA check turnover Popsie Gamboa, Sea Princess, AMA president Gina Bautista-Martin, Jojo Ongsiako, Annabelle Bautista, Maricris Alvarez and Isa Martin



SPECTACULAR Dance Show of Ginajane Grey Dance and Art Center at the RCBC Auditorium



OCEAN Hunter II dive holiday: Dennis, Tessa and Annika Valdes, Mary de Leon, Jojo Castor, Kumie Velhagen, Gigi Santos, Cris and Rommel Hirlo

SMART
Buddy

GADGET CRAZY? GO ONLINE!



P1 MILLION WORTH OF THE HOTTEST GADGETS TO BE GIVEN AWAY!

Ngayon, mas pinasaya pa ng leader ang mobile internet browsing mo!
P10 for every 30 minutes lang, no per kilobyte charging pa!

May chance ka pang manalo ng Sony Playstation 3, Nokia N95 handset,
Ipod Touch, Nintendo Wii or a Macbook. Kaya mag-online na sa iyong
SMART cellphone or use it as a modem for your laptop or desktop.

Free registration – join now!

Via the SMART wapsite <http://wap.smart.com.ph/internet>
or text INTERNET <name/address/age> and send to 4040

Also open to all Gold and Talk N' Text 3G and GPRS users. See posters and flyers for details. Internet browsing rates are not applicable to SMART Corporate subscribers.
Promo not open to both Corporate accounts and SMART Bro Plan 799 subscribers.
Promo period: Dec. 1, 2007 to Feb. 28, 2008. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 4575, Series of 2007

INFORMATION

ENTERTAINMENT

TRANSACTIONS

SMART
THE POWER TO LEAD

Sunday LIFESTYLE

RIVERA-SAMODIO

Ray S. Samodio, eldest son of Mauricio and Jubet Samodio of Negros Occidental, and Ma. Madonna C. Rivera, eldest daughter of Alex and Yolanda Rivera of New York City, will exchange vows on Jan. 5 at the Santuario de San Antonio Abad in Bacolod City.

Marden Cordova Iglesias designed the bridal gown, an all white silk gazar cut finely into six princess panels and embellished on the bodice and train with different white and silver aurora beads, cut glass beads and Swarovski crystals.

An intimate wedding celebration for family and close friends will be held at the Grand Ballroom of the Yusay's Sugarland Hotel.



Milestones

We welcome announcements of weddings and engagements. Submit names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, and gown designer along with a photo of the couple and a sketch of the bridal gown, if any, to the *Inquirer*, P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City. E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. A photo of the bride and groom is required if the wedding has already taken place. Announcements will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the senders.



DEINLA CASTILLO

Freddie Deinla, son of Isidro and Yolanda Deinla, will wed Sheryll Castillo, daughter of Elmer and Anicia Castillo, on Jan. 12 at the Church of Nuestra Señora de Gracia, Guadalupe, Makati.

Eric Pineda designed the bride's stylized Filipiniana gown using handwoven *piña* and silk gazar. Reception will be at the Manila Polo Club, Forbes Park, Makati.



SAYAROT NOBLE

Darwin Sayarot, son of Danilo and Betty Sayarot, will wed Jo Anne Noble, daughter of Blas and Mimb Noble, on Jan. 6 at San Agustin Church in Intramuros. Reception will follow at Ang Maynila of Manila Hotel. The bride will wear a creation by Mela Santiago de Leon.



DULAY SANTOS

Noel U. Dulay Jr., son of Noel Sr. and Gora Dulay, tied the knot recently with Shereen S. Santos, daughter of Drs. Charlie and Adel Santos, at Chapel on the Hill in Nasugbu, Batangas. Reception followed at Sonya's Secret Garden in Buck Estate, Cavite.

FLORES FAROL

Gleniel T. Flores, son of Gamaliel and Ophelia Flores, wed recently Chiara Mae Farol, daughter of Perfecto and Westphalia Farol, at St. Jerome Emilian and Sta. Susana Parish. Reception was held at the Vivere Suites Alabang. Lyle Ibanez designed the wedding gown.



JB MUSIC
www.jbmusic.com.ph
Christmas SALE

GUITAR PICKUPS		TANALOGUE		DIGITAL	
NEEF • NEEF 57-9 • Electric guitar • 2 pick ups • 1/4" input • 1/8" input • 1/4" output SRP: P1,250.00 SALE: P1,000.00	NEEF • NEEF 57-9 • Electric guitar • 2 pick ups • 1/4" input • 1/8" input • 1/4" output SRP: P1,250.00 SALE: P1,000.00	TANALOGUE • TANALOGUE 57-9 • Electric guitar • 2 pick ups • 1/4" input • 1/8" input • 1/4" output SRP: P1,250.00 SALE: P1,000.00	TANALOGUE • TANALOGUE 57-9 • Electric guitar • 2 pick ups • 1/4" input • 1/8" input • 1/4" output SRP: P1,250.00 SALE: P1,000.00	DIGITAL • DIGITAL 57-9 • Electric guitar • 2 pick ups • 1/4" input • 1/8" input • 1/4" output SRP: P1,250.00 SALE: P1,000.00	DIGITAL • DIGITAL 57-9 • Electric guitar • 2 pick ups • 1/4" input • 1/8" input • 1/4" output SRP: P1,250.00 SALE: P1,000.00

DEAN YN XM
• DEAN YN XM
• Electric guitar
• 2 pick ups
• 1/4" input
• 1/8" input
• 1/4" output
SRP: P1,250.00
SALE: P1,000.00

DEAN YN XM
• DEAN YN XM
• Electric guitar
• 2 pick ups
• 1/4" input
• 1/8" input
• 1/4" output
SRP: P1,250.00
SALE: P1,000.00

DEAN YN XM
• DEAN YN XM
• Electric guitar
• 2 pick ups
• 1/4" input
• 1/8" input
• 1/4" output
SRP: P1,250.00
SALE: P1,000.00

VISIT OUR SHOWROOMS FOR MORE PROMO ITEMS TO CHOOSE FROM!!!

- SM MALL OF ASIA 556-0301 • SM MEGAMALL 835-5581 / 635-5592 • SM NORTHMALL 925-4010 / 453-8503
- SM FAIRMEN 925-1467 / 418-4105 • SM SOUTHMALL 885-0725 / 686-6754 • SM VALENCIUELA 291-0348 / 292-4221
- SM PAMPANGA (045) 963-5236 • SM CEBU (032) 232-1432 • SM DAVAO (082) 297-8268
- HARRISON PLAZA 826-3733 • 523-7041 • PARKSQUARE 1 815-3348 / 615-3858
- ATC ALABANG 886-1725 / 842-8545 • SALONGA, CUBAO 911-2387 / 911-2357 • TRINOMA 916-6305 / 916-6309

PROMO PERIOD UNTIL JANUARY 15, 2008

Use your Visa card to win 10 trips for 2 to the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games.

Simply register a minimum P1,000 single receipt Visa purchase for a chance to win two roundtrip air tickets, Olympic Games tickets, hotel accommodation and transfers for a 3D/2N stay in Beijing. You can also win limited edition Visa Olympic Games Memorabilia. For details, text VISA to 325 for Smart and Talk 'N Text, 2361 for Globe and TM, or log on to www.visasupporters.com

Promotion runs from November 15, 2007 to January 15, 2008. Terms and conditions apply. For DTI-MCR Permit No. 5708, Series of 2007. See Byers for more information.





THE KHATRI family. Baby Ashish, Popping, Tristan, Auntie Ada, Lovely, the bride's mother Esperanza, Sarah, Carlo, Khaile, Meena, Carlos and Rajesh

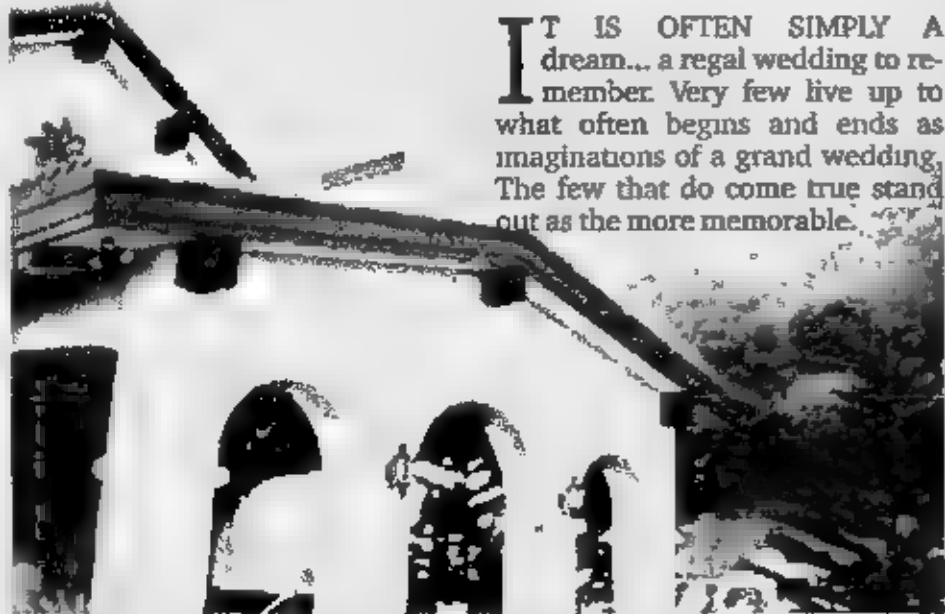


THE COUPLE with the groom's mother Betty Chua and brother Edward Chua

A medieval wedding in the highlands

By Andy David
Contributor

IT IS OFTEN SIMPLY A dream... a regal wedding to remember. Very few live up to what often begins and ends as imaginations of a grand wedding. The few that do come true stand out as the more memorable.



THE MADRE de Dios Chapel of Tagaytay provides a quaint country setting for the regal wedding.

The wedding of Sunita Khatri and Howard Chua was the kind many people dreamed of but only very few achieved.

Sunita is the daughter of Esperanza Abalos Pastor and the late Manohar Parmanand Khatri. Howard is the son of Betty Chua and the late Miguel Chua.

The postcard-pretty Madre de Dios Chapel in Tagaytay, perched on a hilltop and overlooking scenic Taal Lake, was the perfect setting for the wedding.

The weather was mild and cool, the atmosphere, serene. Robert Blancaflor was the genius behind the opulent yet elegant decor of the chapel.

The Manila Philharmonic Orchestra and the Ateneo Glee Club performed for the guests who eagerly awaited the bride and groom.

Friends and family flew in from Canada, China, Europe, Hong Kong, Switzerland, Taiwan and the United States. The women of the entourage, close family members and friends, looked regal in Grecian-inspired gowns complemented by fur shrugs designed by Jerome Ang.

The men were elegant in crisp black tuxes and suits.

As the first notes of the Wedding March were played, the chapel doors opened revealing the bride, a beautiful willowy vision in delicate champagne color.

Sunita's wedding gown, also by Ang, featured a fully beaded corset and a flowing skirt and train of shimmering silk organza, complemented by a petaled shrug.

The bride's makeup by renowned Lourds Ramos highlighted her bright, natural personality. A beaming Howard waited at the altar in an off-white tux, a sharp contrast to his all-black entourage.

Most Reverend Teodoro Buhain Jr., Auxiliary Bishop of Manila, performed the ceremony. Readings were carefully selected by the bishop and the couple's close friend Shyla Marquez.

After the ceremony, cocktails were served at the chapel gardens, giving everyone a chance to enjoy the magnificent Tagaytay sunset.

Guests were then taken by a funicular train to the reception, the route giving them a unique viewpoint of Tagaytay.

At the Tagaytay Highlands Golfers Lounge, guests were greeted by a grandiose spectacle designed by Blancaflor that transformed the area into a romantic medieval court filled with flowers, rich drapery and opulent chandeliers.

The majestic gazebo from Ruel Orduña, alongside the decorative tents and Gold Tiffany chairs by Tess Broqueza, enhanced the medieval look.

Table settings, inspired by the Arthurian Round Table, were done by close friend and associate Michelle Sadiasa.

The buffet offered a feast fit for a king. No less impressive, the desert table featured a lengthy line of sweets designed by Christina Rivera of Sweet Bella.

Music by the Manila Philharmonic Orchestra and voices of the Ateneo Glee Club filled the hall. With the temperature dropping to 9°C at one point, even the tents became foggy.

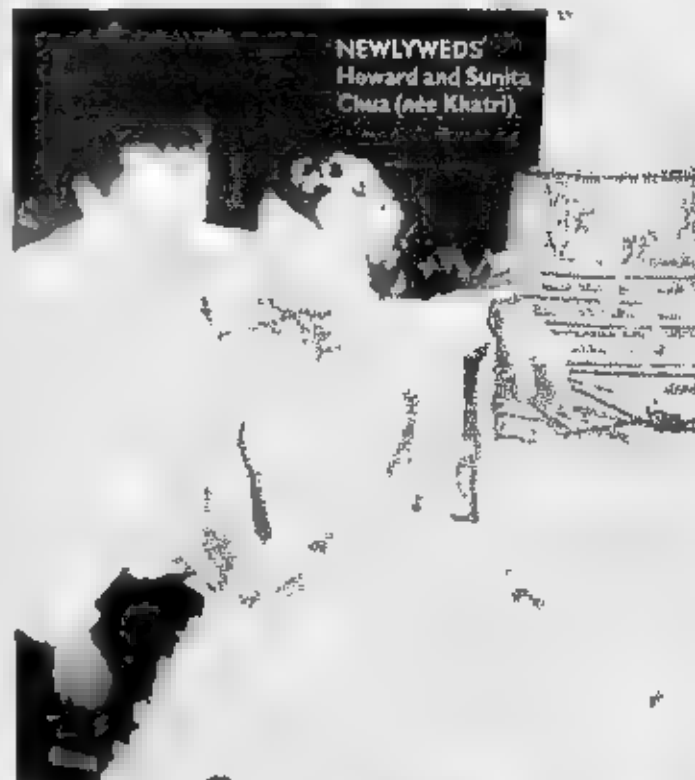
The entrance of the bride and groom was signaled by resoundingly joyous music, jet sparks and glittering silver confetti.

Sunita had now changed into a crystal-beaded backless gown. Lee Llamas took photographs of the once-in-a-lifetime event.

A touching audiovisual presentation, "A Fairy Tale Love Story," was produced by



AT THE altar with Bishop Ted Buhain



THE PICTURE-PERFECT couple with friends at the beautifully styled reception by Robert Blancaflor

close friends. It traced the beginnings of the couple's romance, from the time a mutual friend introduced the two to the 8-year courtship.

Howard described his new bride as "My friend for years, my girlfriend for eight and my wife... forever..."

It was the touching highlight to a romantic wedding.



WITH the groom's family

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

ARRIVALS

- | | | | |
|---|--|------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN | ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1 Beans, e.g. | 49 Reaction to fireworks | 3 "Friday the 13th" — | 40 Brand of power tools |
| 4 Brief form of a wd. | 52 Geller with a psychic act | 41 Jason Lives! | 43 Pro-gun gp. |
| 8 Ellis, e.g. | 54 "— comin'!" | 42 Grain battle | 45 Peruvian dive |
| 14 Aqua — | 55 Blah feeling | 43 That's show —!" | 46 In-depth critiques |
| (after-shave brand) | 56 2007 Tony winner for portraying Richard Nixon | 44 Rodeo buckler | 47 Night in Nice |
| 19 Homer's H | 57 Clamptail patriarch | 45 Olshoma's state tree | 48 Lubricates |
| 20 Cablegram | 58 Be laid up | 46 Sam — | 49 sort |
| 21 With hands on hips and elbows bent outward | 59 Feel likewise | 47 Doubler | 50 The "O" of NOW Abbr. |
| 22 On — do-know basis | 60 Dynamic start | 48 Italian beach resort | 51 Gave shelter |
| 23 Ruler of Florence, 1478-92 | 61 Sinful | 49 Walk — in one's shoes | 52 Absurd |
| 24 Friend of Socrates | 62 Diner | 50 It ain't "ER" | 53 Sign light |
| 25 "acts" | 63 Favorites | 51 "— hear an echo?" | 54 Prefix with pop or plunk |
| 26 Cagans' org. | 64 Like the 10 people featured in this puzzle | 52 Turned into steam | 55 USAF VIP |
| 27 D.C. insider | 65 With 71 Down, mine stuff | 53 Join, as the military | 56 Before, in verses |
| 28 Enter | 66 Anger | 54 Inclined, to a Brit | 57 Needing a refill of |
| 31 Bandleader called the "Rumba King" | 67 Not just mine | 55 Sporty Chevy, for short | 58 Olive holder |
| 35 "A Passage to India" novelist | 68 By land — | 56 "When is — not —" | 59 Koch and Ames |
| 36 Singer Keys | 69 Mean dog | 57 Author Jong | 60 Part of Iraq |
| 37 Patron saint of France | 70 Halcyon | 58 Enthusiastic | 61 Insult |
| 41 "Weird Al" Yankovic's first hit | 71 Tigers Hall-of-Famer | 59 Jim Croce's "I — Name" | 62 Reject |
| 42 Ever and — | 72 Dingo | 60 Berlin "one" | 63 See 75- Across |
| 44 Boxing champion of the 1940s | 73 Pop partner | 61 "Eating —" | 64 Work unit, in physics |
| | 74 Off-roader's truck, briefly | 62 (1982 film) | 65 Singer Ho |
| | 75 — Paulo, Brazil | 63 Juan's year | 66 On the rocks |
| | | 64 Prefix with byte or hertz | 67 Salute |
| | | 65 37 A ways off | 68 Paloozaic — |
| | | | 69 Ol yore |
| | | | 70 Sailor's reply to a captain |
| | | | 71 Happy |

answer on page C3

Spoken Like a Gentleman Tackles Welfare Issues On TV

[Faint handwritten notes at the bottom of page 9]

[illegible][illegible][illegible]

המחבר מודה כי אין זה נכון להניח כי כל המדינות החדשות
היו באותה המידה חסרות כלכלה, ולכן הן נאלצו להשתמש
באשראי זר.

...
 ...
 ...

1. התאחדות העובדים - התאחדות העובדים הכללית
 2. התאחדות העובדים - התאחדות העובדים הכללית
 3. התאחדות העובדים - התאחדות העובדים הכללית
 4. התאחדות העובדים - התאחדות העובדים הכללית
 5. התאחדות העובדים - התאחדות העובדים הכללית
 6. התאחדות העובדים - התאחדות העובדים הכללית
 7. התאחדות העובדים - התאחדות העובדים הכללית
 8. התאחדות העובדים - התאחדות העובדים הכללית
 9. התאחדות העובדים - התאחדות העובדים הכללית
 10. התאחדות העובדים - התאחדות העובדים הכללית

...
...
...

1. مقدمة
 2. أهداف البحث
 3. أهمية البحث
 4. نطاق البحث
 5. الأساليب المستخدمة
 6. النتائج
 7. الخلاصة
 8. المراجع
 9. ملحق
 10. مختصر
 11. مقدمة
 12. أهداف البحث
 13. أهمية البحث
 14. نطاق البحث
 15. الأساليب المستخدمة
 16. النتائج
 17. الخلاصة
 18. المراجع
 19. ملحق
 20. مختصر

[illegible]

1. The first part of the document is a list of names and addresses, which appears to be a directory or a list of contacts. The names are written in a cursive script, and the addresses are listed below them.



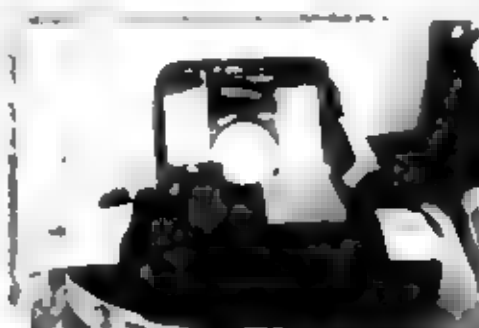
1. The first step is to identify the problem or question that needs to be answered. This involves understanding the context and the specific requirements of the task.



100



... ..



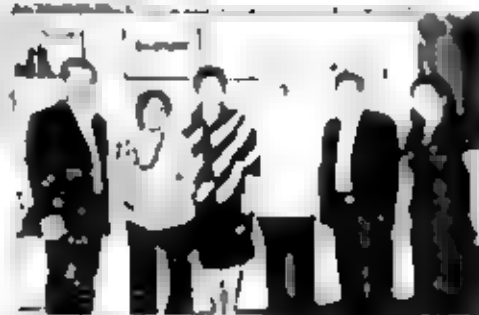
1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674, 2675, 2676, 2677, 2678, 2679, 2680, 26



(continued)

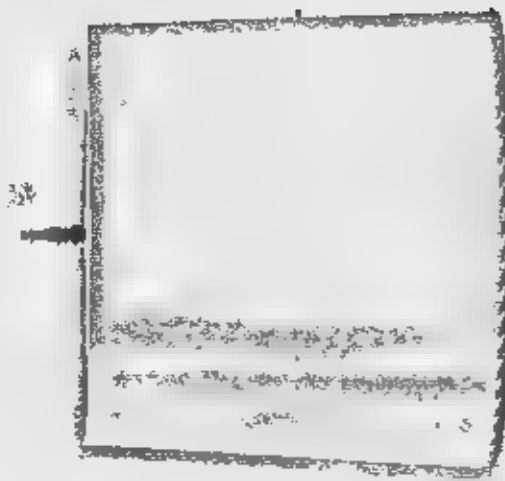


1998



1997





A Breath of Fresh Air

The Trion Towers is the first and only residential tower in a triangular formation designed for standard sunlight and a view in every unit, soon rising to re-shape the metropolitan skyline of Bonifacio Global City.



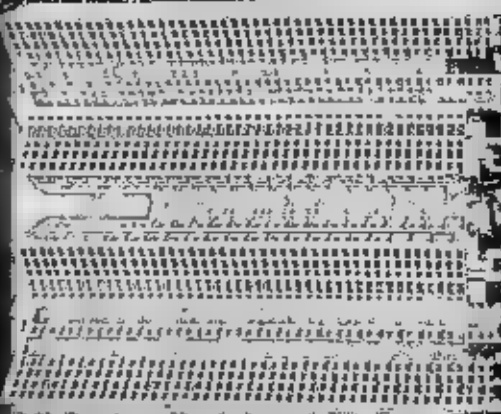
THE TRION TOWERS



ROBINSONS LAND CORPORATION

The Property Developer of Choice

Tel. No. 88 888 0888
Mobile No. 9822 837 0888 0822 834 8188
www.robinsonsland.com.ph



LIFE STYLE Travel

For feedback, e-mail us at lifestyle@inquirer.com.phWebsite: www.inquirer.net/lifestyleText us your feedback:
inquirer life name/age/city/message to
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Some of the unique things at Lamuro are of the fancy variety that is the stuff of glossy travel magazine spreads

Idyllic yet imperfect just like home

By Emmie G. Velarde

THERE'S A COCONUT TREE TO THE right of the patio, facing the sea, that the boatman Delfin would eagerly climb so we could get our fix of fresh buco juice any time of day for three days, the whole length of our stay.

For sure this is what Eichi—our Japanese guest on a first venture out of the United States, where he lives—will remember most about Lamuro Resort in El Nido, Palawan.

Within the hour of our arrival, he had found a mantra—"Buco ... now" and a new friend in Delfin, whose name he struggled to pronounce till the day we left.

IDYLIC/E2

High Cholesterol?

A Healthy Stomach Helps Prevent Heart Disease



Christmas is usually the time when you enjoy sumptuous feasts that are high in cholesterol. However, high cholesterol level may lead to stroke or heart attack.

Greet the New Year with good health. Fight back with C-Lium Fibre!

C-Lium Fibre is made from 100% natural psyllium husk, probably the best dietary fiber in the world. It effectively binds with the cholesterol secreted in bile acids and flushes it out of your body before it is absorbed in the bloodstream. That's why a daily intake of C-Lium Fibre, together with a diet low in saturated fat and cholesterol, can help you maintain a healthy heart.

Protect your heart this holiday season. Make C-Lium Fibre your daily habit!

Passion for Health
LOVE FOR LIFE

C-Lium Fibre comes in powder (for or sachets) and capsules. Available at [mercury drug](http://www.mercurydrug.com) and other leading drugstores and supermarkets nationwide.

CRX **C-Lium®**
FIBRE



JB SPORTS
www.jbsports.com.ph

Christmas SALE

PLAY YOUR SPORTS BEAT OUR PRICE!

Visit our showrooms for more promo items to choose from!!!

• SM MALL OF ASIA 556-0572 • 556-0634 • SM VALENZUELA 791-0348 / 292-4221 • SM PAMPANGA (MIS) 888-1888
• SM CEBU (032) 233-9485 • SM DAVAO (082) 297-4288 • HARRISON PLAZA 526-3733 / 523-7041
PARKSQUARE 1 848-5348 • 832-1025 • ATC ALABANG 889-1726 / 842-9545
RUSTANS, CUBAO 912-6305 / 811-2367 • TRINOMA 916-6305 • 916-6388

Life's Good **LG**

In style.
In touch always
with **LG Mobile**

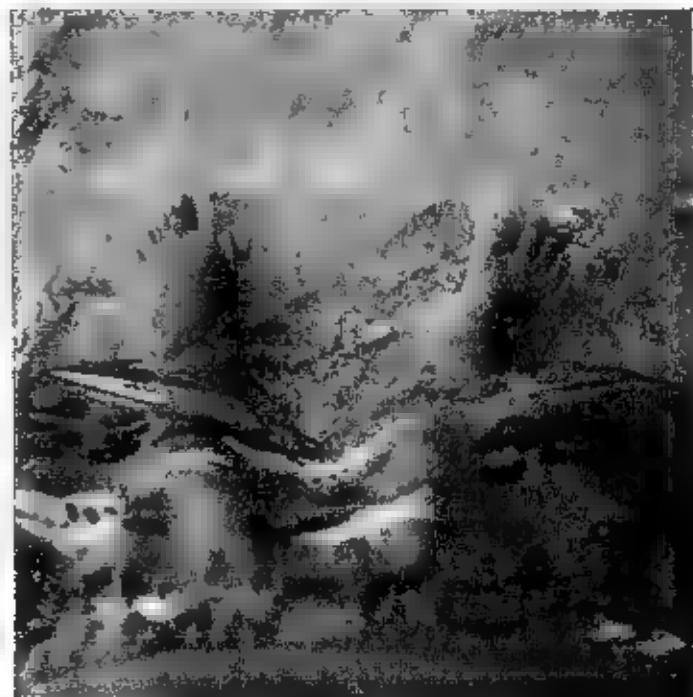
- Google Search package
- Internet functionality and fast network
- Full video telephony
- Dual camera (1.3MP and VGA camera)
- MP3/MP4 player
- Bluetooth connectivity

It's 3G technology at a price within your reach.

Google Search Video Telephony Fast Network Easy Game Key Soft Sleek Design



3G Experience
LG Mobile
KU380



EL NIDO is a thousand shades of blue melting into green.

Idyllic yet imperfect just like home

From page E1

Certainly, there are other unique things about the place—owned by Australia-based businessman Pablo “Boy” Tagle—a few of them of the fancy variety that is the stuff glossy travel magazine spreads are made of.

Foremost of these will have to be Cadiao Island fronting the property, just distant enough to cut a dark and ragged, and mysterious, silhouette. Another is the main house at dusk when, returning from a day of island-hopping, we were amazed at how the lights seemed to set it ablaze.

And, for the adults in our party of eight, still another has to be the kiosk at the far end of the garden—actually the massage hut—where our faculties for worrying were gently stilled by the hands of Eva, the chief therapist, or washed away by the sounds of the surf.

Sometimes in November, though, these sounds go from stirring, to hypnotic, to fearsome. According to Lyden, acting manager, waves had come up to the edge of the lawn the previous week.

I suspect there is a pattern to those sounds that is identifiable if one sits out there long enough on the rickety iron swing—not the old hammock next to it that guarantees 40 winks—and really listen.

I was ecstatic to pick out four seconds of total quiet after every seven uneven sets, followed by a sudden pounding and a mighty swoosh. But that sense of knowing did not last very long, the sea being, I bet, a woman who frowns upon being figured out.

In many ways, Lamuro—named for the barangay where it is located—is like home. You get the snuggy familiarity as much as the uncomfortable, the idyllic as much as the imperfect.

There is no swimming pool, ergo no poolside where a Tom Cruise or Bryan Brown type fixes cocktails at an outdoor bar. The garden is just grass, a sprinkling of perennials, and the fruit-laden coconut trees.

But the rooms have full air-conditioning and hot showers, and the kids were thrilled by the very idea of lifts.

We were served a great deal of food as well, which came with the package. The first meal was quite a treat, since we had left home at 5 a.m. to catch the SeaAir flight at 6:30 to El Nido via Busuanga.

And so we were sufficiently distracted for exactly an hour and a half, the time it took to have lunch (the 18-seater plane lands at El Nido airport just before noon) and settle in.

Immediately after coffee, we were restless. The efficient resort staff, which really seemed like a household's, was prepared for that. Soon enough, the waiter Oscar had discarded his apron and announced he was our tour guide now (we would find out later that Delfin was also chief of maintenance; and Eva, chief of housekeeping).

A boat materialized on the beach. As Delfin prepared to load a small sack of buco, he said we were going snorkeling.

Afternoon delight

Buca beach was a delight. There wasn't a lot to boast about in the snorkeling department, but the photo-op was great, and



CADIAO Island in the distance just has to be Lamuro's top attraction.

the overall feeling was that this part of the world was worth all the hassle and the wait. Wait, what hassle, indeed?

Even an unexpected drizzle was totally welcome, except when we sailed back at sundown, wrapped in wet towels and chased by a chilly wind.

Island-hopping

Close to 300 snapshots can't be wrong. They confirm the outstanding recollection of island-hopping on our second day: A thousand shades of blue melting into green, with intermittent splashes of bright orange and yellow, the colors of life vests that we were obliged to wear like second skin.

Oscar's sparse, tentative charter is committed to memory as well. The world-famous bird's nest was still harvested in El Nido, he said over the drone of the boat motor, but the volume had been regulated, lest the migrant birds never came by again.

This island on which we were to set up lunch was named after a Japanese diver, Oscar said, as we disembarked on Simisu Island and after a whole morning of kayaking and more snorkeling in the famed Small Lagoon. The diver was trapped in a nearby underwater cave and never emerged, his body was never found, Oscar added.

Two European tourists walked by and stopped a while to admire the table setting of fruits, barbecue and buco juice. We wondered whether to invite them to the meal but decided against the idea, noting that they had company just a few meters away and another small boat was approaching.



SOLITUDE is a refreshing experience.

The Big Lagoon looming incredibly grand right before your eyes beats the best and biggest posters of it. To sound shamelessly cliché and say it's everything you'd expect and more, would be just half of the story.

And stopping for a romp on Snake Island, actually a long sandbar, it was hard not to wonder, “Did the Red Sea really part when it supposedly did, or had the Israelites simply come upon one such whim of nature? (Joke.)

That splendid second day was capped with a stop for refueling at the town proper, where we found Arts Café, and bought what is now our favorite rain-maker in a growing collection—almost two minutes of gentle rain sound—and not the most expensive of the lot, either!

Back at Lamuro Resort that evening, a homemade chocolate cake was waiting for an already overwhelmed birthday celebrator, who gushed, “One more surprise and I'd be over the moon.”

Well, over the moon she went just less than an hour later at dinner, when an acoustic duet took one corner of the patio and started singing her favorite songs, while she tried not to choke on succulent lobster.

It was, according to Shayne, Lyden's co-manager, the resort's final treat for all departing guests.

That weekend, we were all the guests they had. Ah, precious fortune! It's never easy to leave behind.

TRAVEL BRIEFS

Special family package

CENTURY PARK HOTEL IS OFFERING local residents until Jan. 6 a special family package for P5,555 net per night. The package includes breakfast buffet for two adults and two kids (children 12 years old and under), swimming pool pass, free use of the gym and other facilities. The package also includes a basket filled with products from Tandayag, Chips Delight, Smiley's, Nai-Cha milk tea, Freshen Candy, Fruitella, Dynamic Energy Drink, etc. (5285855 or 5288888)

Budget-friendly trips

LET VICTORY LINER GET YOU TO

amazing places without exceeding your budget. Plying the northern route for more than 62 years, Victory Liner offers comfortable economy trips to key destinations in Cagayan Valley, Banaue, Zambales, Pangasinan, Pampanga and many other places. Victory Liner terminals are strategically located across the metropolis for easy access (3642926, 0917-8425463, 3611514, www.victoryliner.com)

'Specialists' on farm tour

NORTH AMERICAN TRAVEL AGENTS toured recently Manila, Bohol, Cebu, Palawan and Corregidor as part of the

Department of Tourism's (DOT) Philippine Specialist Program. Thirty agents from 16 US states and two Canadian provinces, “Philippine Specialists,” visited the Chocolate Hills in Bohol and Puerto Princesa Subterranean River National Park, as well as different beach and dive destinations in Bohol, Cebu and Palawan. They also made a courtesy call on Secretary Joseph “Ace” Durano and Planning and Promotions Undersecretary Eduardo Jarque Jr. The specialist program is a DOT online educational program for travel agents in North America that introduces participants to major Philippine tourism destinations.



THE PHILIPPINE Specialists visit Tourism Secretary Joseph Durano (seated) and Undersecretary Eduardo Jarque Jr. (left, first row) at the DOT office in Manila.



Entrepreneur of the Year Bounty Agro Ventures Inc represented by Joven Dy and Mark Trias awarded by SM Supermarket's President Herbert Sy and SM's President Tessie Sy-Coson.



Best Marketing Relations or the Darling of the Buyers", Jun Alberto of Royal Processing & Canning Corp with SM Supermarket's President Herbert Sy and Annie Sy Go.

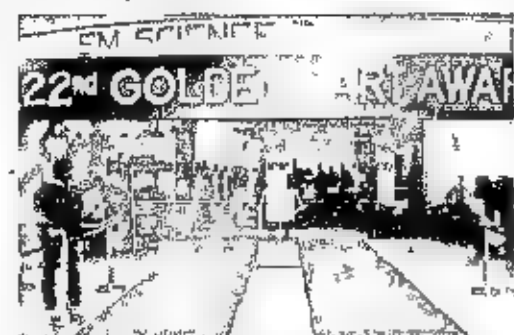


Francisco Lazarte and Allan Roe Ardosa of JS Unitrade received the Golden Cart Award for National Partner of the Year from President of SM Supermarket Herbert Sy and President of SM Tessie Sy-Coson.

SM Supermarket Awards Outstanding Business Partners



SM Supermarket's President Mr. Herbert Sy welcomes Trade Partners during the 22nd Golden Cart Award at the Science Discovery Center



SM Supermarket awarded its outstanding trade partners in the 22nd golden Cart Award at the SM Science Discovery Center at SM Mall Of Asia.



Christine Jacobs-Sandejas hosted the 22nd Golden Cart Awards at the SM Science Discovery Center.



SVI dancers shows their futuristic moves during the awarding.



Diva Zsa-zsa Padilla performed during the awarding night.

Mara Sy-Coson endorses the limited edition of 2008 SM Mall of Asia's Planner.

SM Supermarket recently presented The **Golden Cart Award**, the most prestigious award in the supermarket industry. The ceremony, which took place at the Science and Discovery Center at the SM Mall of Asia, significantly highlights how forward-looking SM Supermarket is in its innovations and customer service. It is a testimony not only to the SM Supermarket's market leadership and consistency, but also the trust and acceptance it has earned by bringing quality products and excellent service to its consumers for many years.

The **Golden Card Award** is the first local supermarket award to recognize the **Best Trade Leaders** in the different aspect of the supermarket industry. A symbol of excellence in creating advancements in retail, the award is given to Trade Partners who exemplify SM Supermarket's dedication to being the First and the Best in the business.

All nominees were meticulously screened and chosen with all departments and aspects of the retail business development, marketing support, replenishment, and distribution of logistics support.

The highest award of the night is given to the supermarket's **Most Outstanding Trade Partners** for overall excellence in ser-



Unilever Phils Inc. bagged the highest award of the night Most Outstanding Trade Partner-Global Partner of the Year, and other awards like Outstanding Store Relations, Most Progressive Overall Customer Service Level, Best In-store Campaign of the Year and Most effective (Ad) Campaign of the Year.

vice level, marketing and promotions, and store relations. These include the **Bounty Agro Ventures Inc.**, for Entrepreneur of the Year; **JS Unitrade** for Na-

tional, Partner of the Year and **Unilever Phils Inc.**, for Global Partner of the Year

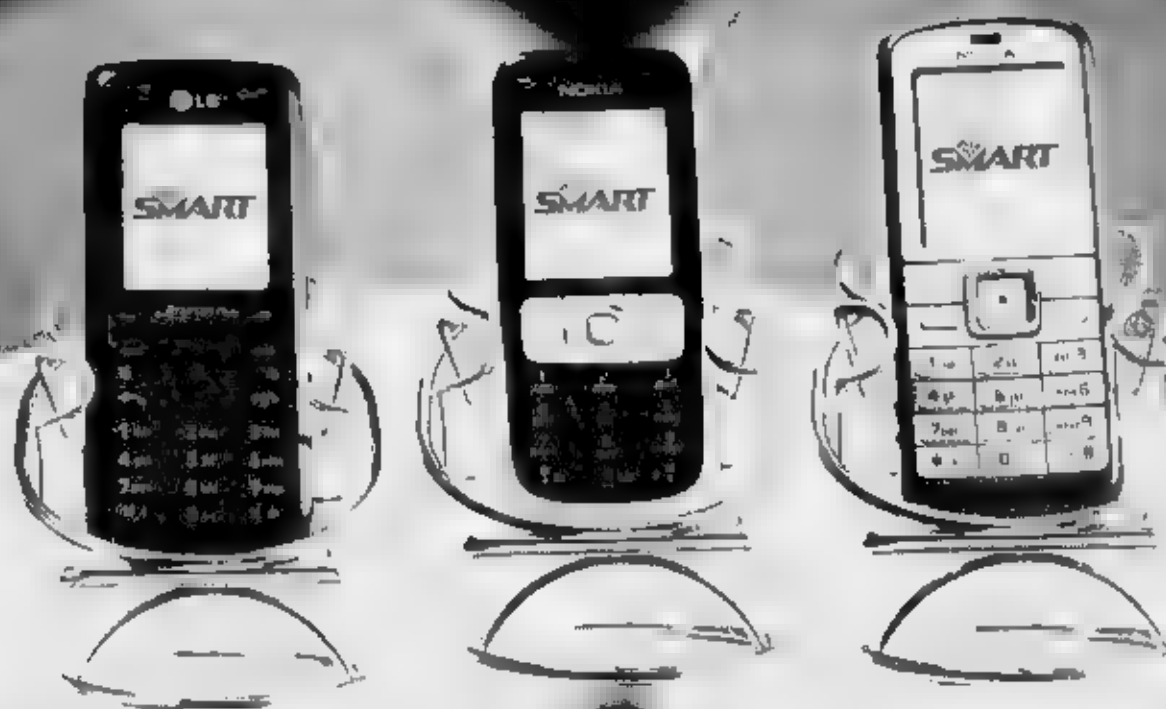
Other Trade Partners that brought home the Golden Card Award are:

- San Miguel Corporation (CKAG) - Most Innovative Company -
- Unilever Phils. Inc. Food Division - Most Progressive Customer Service Level
- Colgate Palmolive Phils. - Most Creative in-Store Display
- Paotsin - Most Competent Food Concessionaire of the Year
- Knorr Sinabawang Gulay - Most Effective (Ad) Campaign of the Year
- Unilever Phils. Inc. Food Division
- Coca Cola Bottlers Phils. - Most Progressive Trade Partner of the Year
- Digital Isus Corporation - Outstanding Service Partner of the Year
- Blue Mountain Worldwide Dist. Inc. Outstanding Store Concessionaire
- Unilever Phils. Inc. Food Division - Outstanding Store Relations
- San Miguel Corporation CKAG (Purefoods) - Excellence in Merchandiser Performance-Choice Harvest - Excellence in Account Management
- MGM Chemical Industry Co. - Excellence in Delivery Service
- Green Cross, Incorporated - Excellence in Overall Customer Service Level
- Unilever Phils. Inc. Non-Food Division - Best In-Store Campaign
- Jun Alberto of Royal Processing & Canning Corp - Best Marketing Relations
- Belo (Intelligent Skin Care Inc.) - Breakthrough Product of the Year



Breakthrough Product of the Year- Belo (Intelligent Skin Care Inc.) (From left) SM Supermarket's President Herbert Sy, Belo's Cristalle Henares, Greg Banson, Erwin Reodique, Lerna Mendoza, Dodle Borja, SM's Annie Sy Go, and Belo's Dennis Guieb.

**SMART
GOLD**



END YOUR SEARCH FOR THE BEST 3 IN 1 DEAL.

3 postpaid lines under 1 plan. Better handsets. Stronger network.

Enjoy calls within your GOLD Trio Plan for only P4.00/min.

Choose any combination of 3 from these colored-screen handsets.



Alcatel C560



Samsung C140



Nokia 1600

GOLD TRIO PLAN 1200

Get a camera phone with any Package. Choose Package 4 and you get 3G and Bluetooth connectivity with the LG KU250.



LG KU250



Nokia 2630



Nokia 6070



Nokia 1600

Package 1:
2 Nokia 6070 +
1 Nokia 1600

Package 2:
2 Nokia 2630 +
1 Nokia 1600

Package 3:
1 Nokia 6070 +
1 Nokia 2630 +
1 Nokia 1600

Package 4:
1 LG KU250 +
2 Nokia 1600

Also available:

GOLD TRIO PLAN 500

Get 3 Nokia 1110i phones

New applications are subject to a 24-month lock-in period. Credit guidelines will apply. Download application forms at www.smart.com.ph/gold. Bring the following documents: Valid ID, Proof of Billing, Financial Documents (COE or W2). Subscribers can also avail of these handsets via credit card application together with a valid ID. For details call *888 through your SMART cellphone, 888-1111 via landline or visit any SMART Wireless Center.

INFORMATION

ENTERTAINMENT

TRANSACTIONS

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

sms feedback: inquirer ent name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 283 (Smart) or email us at entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

Website: www.inquirer.net/entertainment

Mexican filmmaker 'not obsessed' with H'wood

By Bayani San Diego Jr.
Photo courtesy of Mowelfund

Gustavo Loza conducts Mowelfund workshop, and says he learned a lot himself from his Filipino counterparts

TAKE FIVE

MEXICAN FILMMAKER AND first-time Manila visitor Gustavo Loza couldn't contain his excitement over his trip to Quiapo.

The downtown tour was the "culminating activity" in a three-day directing workshop that he conducted recently at the Mowelfund Film Institute in Quezon City. The intensive workshop was spearheaded by the Mexican embassy and Mowelfund. Among the 35 workshop participants were young Filipino filmmakers Emmanuel de la Cruz and Mike Dagdagan.

Loza had been determined not to limit his visit to the posh malls of Makati, where his film "Al Otro Lado" was screened.

Also in Loza's itinerary, according to Nick Deocampo, Mowelfund director, were Pagsanjan, Intramuros and the shanty towns of Sampaloc.

A Net report says Loza, whose "Al Otro Lado" was the Mexican entry to the Best Foreign Language race at the Academy Awards last year, hopes to work with Latino superstars Javier Bardem, Benicio del Toro and Andy Garcia in his next movie.

(This interview with INQUIRER Entertainment was conducted with translator Carmi na Silverio of the Mexican embassy.)

What was it like for you, interacting with the Filipino workshop participants?

Muy satisfactoria. Some of the participants already had past filmmaking experience, which enriched the workshop a lot, the more.

What questions did they ask?

[They were] very interested in the new wave, the new generation of Mexican filmmakers... in the way things are developing—visually, and in terms of content.

How do you position yourself in this new wave?

I see myself following in the footsteps of Alejandro González Iñárritu, Alfonso Cuarón and Guillermo del Toro.

Those Mexican filmmakers have been discovered by Hollywood. Are you willing or ready to go Hollywood?

My only aim is to tell the stories that I find interesting. My goal is to reflect life as honestly as I can. If I were given opportunities to work in other countries, I'd be willing to go. If it's in Hollywood, so be it. But I'm not obsessed with making Hollywood movies.

Why are you shooting in Quiapo?

The [workshop] participants will make a 10-minute short film from that exercise. I want to see Quiapo through [their] eyes.

How familiar are you with Filipino movies?

The workshop participants gave me samples of their works, so I'm bringing home lots of Filipino films.

What have you learned from them so far?

That we share a lot of things in common. Religion, food. It's surprising that I'm miles away from Mexico, but I still feel at home here. Another important thing I've noticed is that Filipinos are more Latin than Asian in temperament. The stories in Mexico and the Philippines seem parallel.

"Amores Perros" could have been set in Manila.

Yes! We were both under Spanish rule and there's also US influence in our societies. We have the same social and economic problems, especially in the big cities: poverty, inequality, instability. Since we face the same problems, we can also work to overcome these obstacles together.

What are the stories you'd like to tell in your movies?

I'd like to speak about the human condition. But I like to present things in a positive light. The tradition in Mexico is to show the worst in Mexican society. To tackle the gritty, harsh realities of life. What I try to do is to show hope and possible solutions to the problems. For me, it's important to show life through children's eyes because they look at the world with innocence and a sense of magic.

Magical realism is a tradition in Latin



Nothing Beats 100%

Because you always want to give 100% in every task, you'll love Tropicana Gold.



One pack contains the real juice goodness of 8 freshly squeezed oranges which naturally has zero fat and zero cholesterol. It's a good source of Vitamin C, which is an important antioxidant that helps support the immune system. In addition, it contains Potassium and has no Sodium, and diets that include food that contain potassium and low sodium may reduce the risk of high blood pressure and stroke. All these health benefits come only from Tropicana Gold 100% Orange Juice.

So when you drink a glass of Tropicana Gold 100%, you're not just drinking juice, you're drinking nutrition from nature.

Tropicana
GOLD

100% Nutrition from Nature.

Mexican filmmaker 'not obsessed' with H'wood

From page F1

America. Do you use that in your movies?

In a way. In one scene in "Al Otro Lado," I did that by recounting a Mexican legend. It definitely enriches my movie

and connects it more to my people

Which filmmakers do you admire?

I have great respect and admiration for Guillermo del Toro ("Pan's Labyrinth")

who is a friend. Aside from being a great filmmaker, he's a great human being. You can see that in his movies. I also respect Guillermo Arriaga, scriptwriter of "Babel" and "Amores Perros." He's been a friend

for years. His own life story has been a continuous struggle as well.

What are your future projects?

My next movie, tentatively entitled

"Family Dreams," tackles the story of a gay couple who wants to adopt a child. It asks the question, "Is parenthood a privilege exclusive to heterosexuals?" plan to start shooting next year.

M M T A MOVIE GUIDE

METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION

NOW SHOWING

Movies/ Schedules/ Prices Subject To Change Without Prior Notice

MOVIE	THEATRE	SHOWTIME	PRICE
SHAKE, RATTLE & ROLL	Eastwood Cinema	12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00	RESKLO
BAHAY KUBO	Eastwood Cinema	12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00	RESKLO
SAKAL, SAKALI, SAKLOLO	Eastwood Cinema	12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00	RESKLO
ENTENG KABISOTE 4	Eastwood Cinema	12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00	RESKLO
Blue Wave	Blue Wave (Marikina)	12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00	RESKLO
SHAKE, RATTLE & ROLL	Blue Wave (Marikina)	12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00	RESKLO
BAHAY KUBO	Blue Wave (Marikina)	12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00	RESKLO
ENTENG KABISOTE 4	Blue Wave (Marikina)	12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00	RESKLO
CINERWORLD	Cineworld (Pasig)	12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00	RESKLO
SHAKE, RATTLE & ROLL	Cineworld (Pasig)	12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00	RESKLO
BAHAY KUBO	Cineworld (Pasig)	12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00	RESKLO
SAKAL, SAKALI, SAKLOLO	Cineworld (Pasig)	12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00	RESKLO
ENTENG KABISOTE 4	Cineworld (Pasig)	12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00	RESKLO
Small	Small (Marikina)	12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00	RESKLO
SHAKE, RATTLE & ROLL	Small (Marikina)	12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00	RESKLO
BAHAY KUBO	Small (Marikina)	12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00	RESKLO
SAKAL, SAKALI, SAKLOLO	Small (Marikina)	12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00	RESKLO
ENTENG KABISOTE 4	Small (Marikina)	12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00	RESKLO
OPEN SOON!!!	CASH AND CARRY CINEMAS	Cor. Buendia and South Super Highway, Makati City	(to be announced)
Jade Cinema	Jade Cinema (Alabang)	12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00	RESKLO
ENTENG KABISOTE 4	Jade Cinema (Alabang)	12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00	RESKLO
SAKAL, SAKALI, SAKLOLO	Jade Cinema (Alabang)	12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00	RESKLO
ENTENG KABISOTE 4	Jade Cinema (Alabang)	12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00	RESKLO
Ulanas Cinema	Ulanas Cinema (Alabang)	12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00	RESKLO
ENTENG KABISOTE 4	Ulanas Cinema (Alabang)	12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00	RESKLO
SAKAL, SAKALI, SAKLOLO	Ulanas Cinema (Alabang)	12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00	RESKLO
ENTENG KABISOTE 4	Ulanas Cinema (Alabang)	12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00	RESKLO
metropolis	metropolis (Alabang)	12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00	RESKLO
SHAKE, RATTLE & ROLL	metropolis (Alabang)	12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00	RESKLO
BAHAY KUBO	metropolis (Alabang)	12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00	RESKLO
SAKAL, SAKALI, SAKLOLO	metropolis (Alabang)	12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00	RESKLO
ENTENG KABISOTE 4	metropolis (Alabang)	12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00	RESKLO
THEATRES	THEATRES (Cabanatuan)	12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00	RESKLO
SHAKE, RATTLE & ROLL	THEATRES (Cabanatuan)	12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00	RESKLO
BAHAY KUBO	THEATRES (Cabanatuan)	12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00	RESKLO
ENTENG KABISOTE 4	THEATRES (Cabanatuan)	12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00	RESKLO

NOW SHOWING!

PANDORIN ANG PINOY ROBOT!

GENERAL PATRONAGE ALL AGES RATED "A" BY THE CINEMA EVALUATIONS BOARD

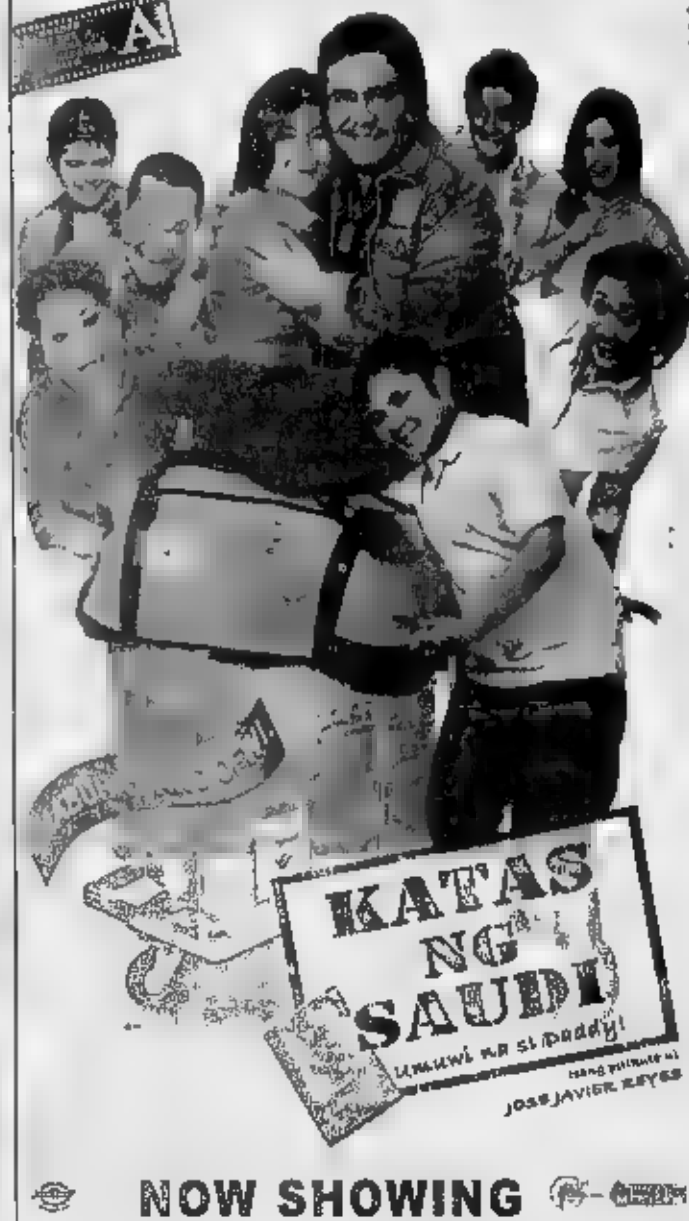


MTRCB G GENERAL PATRONAGE ALL AGES ADMITTED

OFFICIAL ENTRY TO THE METRO MANILA FILM FESTIVAL 2007

JINGGOY ESTRADA AND LORNA TOLENTINO

KATAS NG SAUDI



NOW SHOWING

AT THE CINEMAS

IFX

Reserve your tickets by texting SAREATS 091 2333 0100 or 211 0100 or log on to www.sareats.com for web reservations. Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification, please call 729-7777

MOVIE	THEATRE	SHOWTIME	PRICE
SHAKE, RATTLE & ROLL	GLORIETTA 1	12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00	RESKLO
BAHAY KUBO	GLORIETTA 1	12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00	RESKLO
ENTENG KABISOTE 4	GLORIETTA 1	12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00	RESKLO
SAKAL, SAKALI, SAKLOLO	GLORIETTA 1	12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00	RESKLO
SHAKE, RATTLE & ROLL	GLORIETTA 4	12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00	RESKLO
ENTENG KABISOTE 4	GLORIETTA 4	12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00	RESKLO
SAKAL, SAKALI, SAKLOLO	GLORIETTA 4	12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00	RESKLO
BAHAY KUBO	GLORIETTA 4	12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00	RESKLO
SAKAL, SAKALI, SAKLOLO	GREENBELT 1	12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00	RESKLO
ENTENG KABISOTE 4	GREENBELT 1	12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00	RESKLO
SAKAL, SAKALI, SAKLOLO	GREENBELT 1	12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00	RESKLO
BAHAY KUBO	GREENBELT 1	12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00	RESKLO
SHAKE, RATTLE & ROLL	GREENBELT 3	12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00	RESKLO
ENTENG KABISOTE 4	GREENBELT 3	12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00	RESKLO
SAKAL, SAKALI, SAKLOLO	GREENBELT 3	12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00	RESKLO
BAHAY KUBO	GREENBELT 3	12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00	RESKLO
SHAKE, RATTLE & ROLL	ALABANG TOWN CENTER	12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00	RESKLO
ENTENG KABISOTE 4	ALABANG TOWN CENTER	12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00	RESKLO
SAKAL, SAKALI, SAKLOLO	ALABANG TOWN CENTER	12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00	RESKLO
BAHAY KUBO	ALABANG TOWN CENTER	12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00	RESKLO
SAKAL, SAKALI, SAKLOLO	AYALA CENTER CEBU	12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00	RESKLO
ENTENG KABISOTE 4	AYALA CENTER CEBU	12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00	RESKLO
SAKAL, SAKALI, SAKLOLO	AYALA CENTER CEBU	12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00	RESKLO
BAHAY KUBO	AYALA CENTER CEBU	12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00	RESKLO
SHAKE, RATTLE & ROLL	MARKET! MARKET!	12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00	RESKLO
ENTENG KABISOTE 4	MARKET! MARKET!	12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00	RESKLO
SAKAL, SAKALI, SAKLOLO	MARKET! MARKET!	12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00	RESKLO
BAHAY KUBO	MARKET! MARKET!	12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00	RESKLO
SHAKE, RATTLE & ROLL	TRINOMA	12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00	RESKLO
ENTENG KABISOTE 4	TRINOMA	12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00	RESKLO
SAKAL, SAKALI, SAKLOLO	TRINOMA	12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00	RESKLO
BAHAY KUBO	TRINOMA	12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, 10:00	RESKLO

AT THE MALLS

CONCIERGE HOTLINE NUMBERS:

Glorietta 762 7272

Greenbelt 767 4853 to 54

Alabang Town Center 842 2782-772 1850

Ayala Center Cebu (032) 231 6342 loc 324

Market! Market! 686 7618

TriNoma 901 3000

Ayala

FREE Christmas Gift Bag for every P300 worth of purchase. See leaflets for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A2-466, Series of 2007 November 15 to December 31, 2007

Christmas Gift Box Promo
Get a FREE gift box for a minimum purchase of P3,000 at any Greenbelt establishment.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A2-490, Series of 2007 December 1 to 31

Grand Fireworks Display
December 30, 8:00pm; Town Plaza

FREE Christmas Gift Bag for every P500 worth of purchase. See leaflets for details. Per DTI-Cebu Permit No. 584 Series of 2007 December 1 to 31

FREE Christmas Gift Bag for every P500 worth of purchase. See leaflets for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A2-506, Series of 2007 December 1 to 31

Reportery Philippines presents TUESDAYS WITH MORRIE
January 11 to 27, 2007

WATER: THE MEDIUM by Juvenal Sanso
November 24 to January 13, 2008; Grand Floor Gallery
For more info, pls. call 762-7117 loc. 21 loc. 14 or email museum_inquiry@ayalamuseum.com

FREE Christmas Gift Bag for every P500 worth of purchase. See leaflets for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A3-938, Series of 2007 December 1 to 31

FREE Christmas Gift Bag for every P500 worth of purchase. See leaflets for details. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A3-938, Series of 2007 December 1 to 31

GLORIETTA 4 HOLIDAY CINEMA TREATS

Watch any movie at Glorietta 4 Cinemas and enjoy exciting treats from participating Glorietta 4 food establishments!

Offer may not be availed in conjunction with other promotions.
Promo Period: November 14 to December 31, 2007.
Ayala Malls Cinemas... Beyond Movies!
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A3-263, Series of 2007
See posters for more details.

ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS LIVE AT THE AYALA MALLS

Meet & Greet after each show in Theaters Jan 16

Glorietta
January 4-6
11:30am, 3pm & 6pm
Activity Center
Concharge hall: 762-7272

TriNoma
January 11-12
11:30am, 3pm & 6pm
Activity Center
Concharge hall: 901-3000

Market! Market!
January 19-20
1:30pm, 3:30pm & 6:30pm
Activity Center
Concharge hall: 686-7618

Alabang Town Center
January 26-27
11am, 3pm & 6pm
Activity Center
Concharge hall: 842-2782, 772-1850

Ayala Center Cebu
February 2-3
1pm, 3:30pm & 6:30pm
On Stage
Concharge hall: (032) 231-6342 loc. 324

**"Mommy,
kahit malayo ka,
masaya na
ang New Year**

**ba't
p ka"**

PLDT Sa PLDT Cards, konektado ka.

Tawagan mo ang mahal mo sa buhay with PLDT Budget Card.
I-dial lang ang 10-10-11 or 10-10-15 para sa mas mahabang usapan ngayong Bagong Taon.
Bili na sa inyong suking tindahan!

**US, Canada
and Hong Kong**

**China, South Korea,
Malaysia, Singapore
and Taiwan**



E-mail: entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

ENTERTAINMENT

Text us your feedback: inquirer_ext_name@citymessage.to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Still 'Enteng' vs 'Sakal'

"ENTENG KABISOTE 4" LEADS AT THE tills with P42 million on the third day of the MMFF, followed by "Sakal, Sakali, Saklolo," P39M, and "Shake, Rattle and Roll

9," P27M, according to Ric Camaligan, MMFF executive committee member. Total nationwide earnings at press time is P129 million.
Bayani San Diego Jr.

Latest singing buddies: Gretchen and partner Tonyboy Cojuangco

By the INQUIRER Entertainment Staff

WHO WOULD THINK THAT MEDIA mogu. Tonyboy Cojuangco is also a budding singer?

At the Christmas party for one of his companies, he reportedly belted out "What a Wonderful World."

According to partner Gretchen Barretto, he has also consented to wax a duet on her special CD (which will be given away, free, to friends and fans).

Why this sudden musical turn? It must be because Tonyboy has the same throat doctor as Darna Julie Andrews. But wait, hasn't she stopped singing?

Proud daughter

Beautiful Actress was accosted by Cathy Director at a show biz gala.

With the intent of shocking the girl, CD quipped: "Do you know that your dad was the boyfriend of Ms. So and So?"

Unflappable BA retorted, without missing a beat: "I know!"

CD told Rushes, "I should've said her dad was also the boyfriend of one of the richest gay men in the country! Wonder how she'd take that?"

Kissing bandit

Pretty Young Thing met Married Celebrity during the shoot for a TV commercial. According to PYT, MC practically begged for her cell phone number.

Next thing you know, she was "forced" to share a "torrid" screen kiss with MC—and MC's wife threw a mega-size tantrum during a recent family vacation in Boracay.

Network rigodon

ABS-CBN's Angelika de la Cruz is heading back to GMA 7, and GMA 7's Ara Mina is reportedly taking Angelika's place on the Kapamilya afternoon soap, "Prinsesa ng Banyera."

Ara confirms that she is, indeed, appearing on "Prinsesa."

She supposedly got irked after GMA 7 tapped her to play JC de Vera's mom on the new soap, "Babangon Ako't Dudurugin Kita." Mom? Ouch.

Top of the tabloids

The top show biz stories in local tabloids this week. (And why we are moved, if we are moved.)

*Nakatang magka-holding hands sa Duty Free. Willie Revillame, Cristine Reyes may relasyon? (Isn't she back with Dennis Trillo? Well, as Ate Ara would say, "Malaka

na siya!")

*Patrick Garcia at Cogie Domingo, nagsasangla ng cellphone 'pag natatala sa casino?! (Small time.)

*Patrick kinabahan sa pagpapa-sexy ni Jennylyn! (May secret kaya?)

*Programa ni Mel Tiangco sa GMA 7 tsugi na! (Di napatumba ang tinapayan?)

*Si Dingdong Dantes ang mystery guy sa buhay ni Marian Rivera? (Wrong. Si Dingdong Dantes ang mystery guy sa buhay namin. Ay, anuwayun?)

*Marian agaw-eksena sa "Desperadas!"

*Richard Gutierrez feel dyawain sa Jewel! (And that's our word of the week, no contest.)

*Richard at KC, magkaibigan lang kuno! (This team-up is not going to fly, guys—kainit pa-survey pa natin sa AGB Nielsen.)

*Ara Mina, 'nakoka' nang kunin ng GMA si Angelika de la Cruz!

*Aiko umibiyerna pa rin kay Ara? (Actually, she seems to have a list.)

*Angelika himpat sa GMA dahil sa pera? (She wouldn't be the first now, would she?)

*Shaina, Rayver nawalan ng trait sa sa't isa! (Teenagers.)

*Resiklo ni Bong pang-Hollywood na! (Kala namin, pang-Manikana ni Bayani Fernando.)

*Best Actor si Pacman...please 'wag naman! (Please 'wag naman.)

*Movie na Jinggoy habataw sa Singapore at Saudi Arabia! (Can you guess why?)

*Yasmien Kurdit, gusto nang mag-aral sa kolehiyo! (Go, girl.)

*Roxanne Guinoo, mas nasaktan kay Jake Cuenca kaysa kay Jaruss Gamboa! (Kamun.)

*Edgar Allan Guzman, mukhang magsasaka. (Think Willem Dafoe.)



MISCHA Barton's mug shot, left, from the LA County Sheriff's office after she was arrested Dec. 27 for DUI, illegal narcotics possession, and driving without a valid license.

REUTERS

NICKY Hilton are seen in this file photo doing a promotional tour of Japan for a fashion brand. The celebante sisters' potential inheritance dramatically diminished after their grandfather Barton Hilton announced plans on Dec. 26 to donate 97 percent of his \$2.3-billion fortune to charity.

REUTERS



DEEPLY AFFECTING. A scene showing Mathieu Amalric giving his aging father, played by Max Von Sydow, a shave is one of the touching moments in "The Diving Bell and the Butterfly," one of the year's best films.

The best of 2007

LOS ANGELES—AS 2007 DRAWS TO a close and we look back at the best films and performances of 2007, it's a perfect time to reveal that Dante Mendozza's "Foster Child" came very close to winning the top prize at an international film festival held not too long ago. A reliable source shared this tidbit that the jury's final choice came down to either "Foster Child" or another film.

The other movie won but the fact that Dante's film almost ran away with the plumb prize speaks volumes about "Foster Child's" merits. This source of ours raved over Cherry Pie Picache's performance.

Here are the films and performances that rewarded us with new insights, humor, intriguing dilemmas, thrills and passion as we slogged through a year-round schedule of almost-daily screenings. Jason Reitman, the son of director Ivan Reitman, proves that the flair he showed in his feature debut, the delicious satire "Thank You For Smoking," was not a fluke.

He succeeds again with "Juno," about a hip-talking teenager (Ellen Page) who discovers she's pregnant and decides to find a perfect set of parents for her unborn child. Jason is aided by the whip-smart script of ex-stripper Diablo Cody.

In one scene, Ellen's character tells Michael Cera, the father of the child she's carrying, "You're the coolest person I've ever met, and you don't even have to try." Michael delivers his reply, "Actually, I try really hard," with such honesty that it gets us every time (we've seen the film three times). The performances of Ellen, Michael, Jennifer Garner, Jason Bateman, J.K. Simmons and Allison Janney also make "Juno" worth watching again and again.

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales



And now it can be told: 'Foster Child' almost won int'l film fest top prize

Remember when you first saw Lino Brocka's "Tinimbang Ka Ngunit Kulang" and Ishmael Bernal's "Nunal sa Tubig"? That exhilarating feeling of watching something fresh, original, dynamic and monumental was what we experienced when we saw Paul Thomas Anderson's "There Will Be Blood."

Good to great

We wondered, how did a director go from being good ("Punch-Drunk Love," "Magnolia," "Boogie Nights") to great in one movie? Based upon Upton Sinclair's 1920s novel, "Oil!," "There Will Be Blood" is anchored by the brave, astounding performance of Daniel Day-Lewis as a silver miner who becomes a self-made oil tycoon. Paul Dano, who took over after another actor was replaced because he was not matching Daniel's intensity, lives up to the challenge.

Two animated films, "Persepolis" and "Ratatouille," are exceptionally well-made. "Persepolis," Marjane Satrapi's memoir of her childhood during the Islamic Revolution in Iran, won a Special Jury Prize in Cannes last May. Marjane, with co-

writer and co-director Vincent Paronnaud, has successfully adapted her graphic novel into a black and white film that is beautiful in its starkness and depiction of truths from a girl's viewpoint.

Leave it to those geniuses at Pixar to turn a story about a mouse who dreams of becoming a gourmet chef into an instant classic with a screenplay that really should be hailed as one of the year's best. Brad Bird's "Ratatouille" is another triumph in the animation house that John Lasseter built.

There is one scene in "The Diving Bell and the Butterfly" that by itself is worth the price of a movie ticket—Mathieu Amalric gives his aging father, played by the venerable Max Von Sydow, a shave. In this short scene, a lot was said without being spoken. This film affected us deeply on many levels.

Hit list

Other worthy films and performances:

"Michael Clayton"—George Clooney has done it again: make a socially relevant film that is entertaining and compelling at the same time. He and his co-stars are first-rate: Tom Wilkinson, Tilda Swinton and Sydney Pollack.

"The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford"—Casey Affleck and Brad Pitt.

"I'm Not There"—Cate Blanchett.

"Charlie Wilson's War"—Philip Seymour Hoffman. But this man is good in any film he appears in, including "The Savages," which also boasts of a fine performance by Laura Linney.

"No Country for Old Men"—Tommy Lee Jones, like Philip, can do no wrong. He is brilliant.

THE BEST/G2

FUN SNAPS FROM 2007



MOVIE QUEENS

TO TITILLATE. Susan Roces and Boots Anson-Roa (right) grace the Celebrity 9 Ball Challenge held Jan. 24 in Teatrino Promenade, Greenhills. BECK/ANZAS

At left, Gina Pareño and Cherry Pie Picache relive the fun and spirit of starring (and shoving) as independent film actresses in a forum held Aug. 10 at the INQUIRER office.

JIM GUINO/PUNZALAN



OPENS JANUARY 1
MTRCB R 13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND ABOVE

COMGUILD Production Co.
OFFICIAL ENTRY TO THE 2007 METRO MANILA FILM FESTIVAL

THOU SHALT NOT KILL

BANANA

CHRISTOPHER DE LEON PAOLO PARAISSO CASSANDRA PONTI IVA ALERRE JORY ZEFF SMITH FERN MEDINA

Aranceta Center
Globe
Aranceta Cinema

EXPERIENCE THE DIFFERENCE

SAKAL SAKAL SAKLOLO 12:20 1:30 2:40 3:50 5:00 6:10 7:20 8:30 9:40	ENTENG KABISOTE 4 12:00 12:40 1:20 2:10 2:50 3:30 4:20 5:00 5:40 6:30 7:10 7:50 8:40 9:20 10:00	SAKAL SAKAL SAKLOLO 2:00 4:20 6:40 9:00
SHAKE RATTLE AND ROLL 12:50 3:40 6:30 9:20	BAHAY KUBO 12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 9:55	RESIKLO 12:40 3:00 5:10 7:20 9:30
		KATAS NG SAUDI 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

WORLD-CLASS, STATE-OF-THE-ART MOVIE AT POPULAR PRICES

ARANETA COLISEUM

THE MUST-SEE SHOW OF THE YEAR!

LIVE! **Aranceta Center** & **Globe** welcome

ON ICE
AMAZING JOURNEY

Five times the fun in one Amazing Journey!
JANUARY 18 TO 27, 2008
GO TO WWW.DISNEYONICE-ASIA.COM/PH

BUY YOUR TICKETS NOW!

For reservations call 811-8556 or log on to tickets.com.ph, amazingjourney.com or www.aranceta.com

DREAMWORKS FROM THE STUDIO THAT BROUGHT YOU **Shrek - The Musical**

BEE MOVIE IN THEATERS JANUARY 8

JERRY SEINFELD
RENEE ZELLWEGER

A Seat fit for the Lil King

Introducing the Ayala Malls Cinemas **BOOSTER BUDDY**

Its two-sided design provides bright screen for children of different ages.

It fits a cup and candy holder, its odorless and has no sharp edges.

Its lightweight design allows children to carry their own seat.

Ayala Malls CINEMAS

The Ayala Malls Cinemas' PRIVILEGE PASS
 The best gift for everyone this Yuletide season

Available at any Ayala Malls

The Ayala Malls Cinemas' Privilege Card is honored at any Ayala Malls Cinemas nationwide (Glorietta 1 & 4, Greenbelt 1 & 2, Abang Farm Center)

Totally Entertaining!

Watch a movie, win a TV!

IN GLOBEVIEW 1 HOUR
Glorietta 4 cinemas only.

Prize Drawal
November 23 to December 31, 2007

See terms in details

NOW SHOWING
 IN MORE THAN 100 THEATERS NATIONWIDE

MARAMING SALAMAT PO, FOR MAKING US NO.1 AGAIN!

CONGRATULATIONS BOSSING! THE UNDISPUTED BOX-OFFICE KING!

CATCH FRANCINE PRIETO ON SUNDAY, DEC 30 AT THE FF SM CINEMAS
 SM FAIRVIEW, 1:30 PM / SM NORTH, 2:30 PM / SM MANILA, 3:30 PM / MEGAMALL, 5:00 PM

MTRCB RATING: G ALL AGES ADMITTED

VIC SOTTO KRISTINE HERMOSA
 IAN VENERACION FRANCINE PRIETO CARLOS AGASSI AND MICHAEL DE MESA
 OYO SOTTO GISELLE "T" TONGI JOSE MANALO AIZA SEGUERRA
 RUBY RODRIGUEZ MIKYLLA RAMIREZ ARTHUR SOLINAP AND PEQUE GALLAGA

Enteng Kabisote 4
 KOKY KA FAIRY KO... THE BEGINNING OF THE LEGEND

Official Entry to the Metro Manila Film Festival

ENTE

'Bo

TO SOME SHOW BIZ NEW success comes easily and qu three-year-old tot, Niño guested on Ariel Ureta's sl times—and, before he kn was already a hot movie co-starring with giants like such.

Ditto for the similarly juv Segueria, who parlayed h on "Little Miss Philippines Bulaga" into a high-flying c remains active to this day.

We also recall how Lino first feature film, "Wante Mother," was such a big made him a major direct right away, shooting one another until his most trag

On the other hand, ano director, Ishmael Bernal ended much rougher sail start of his career. His fir Ewan, Basta Sa Maynila Pa was an unhappy experienc because he kept quarrel producer. In fact, he did shooting it (his producer di Happily, Bernal had be with his second film ouing ng sa Dulo," because it wa by friends who wanted to get over his disappointment first feature.

However, while "p reaped critica acclaim, it d so business at the box o Bernal had to work harder a popular filmmaker the who was blessed by the m ma from his very first n wards

Of course, it all even end. Both Brocka and Be both named National Ar their demise, and all's we film world.

'Sudden' fame

These thoughts come to cause we've recently seen o ter late than never" succo unfolded on the show biz scen

The first involves you Charice Pempengco, who denly" become famous bec Degeneres heard about h dous vocal performance o and promptly invited Char the States and sing on show—which the phenome singer did, to great acclaim

Of course, Charice's s hardly "sudden" at all S ago, she competed on singing tilt on TV, and we

The bes

hant here as he is in "in of Elah." Javier Bardem Brohm are memorab Country," too. Those C ers are back in top form "A Mighty Heart" Jolie.

"Enchanted"—who k this kind of film woul nations? Kudos to Amy Patrick Dempsey and Marsden, director Kevin songwriters Alan Men Stephen Schwartz. V them for a truly enchani

"Lust, Caution"—Th not quite catch fire in the did very well overseas. in Asia Director Ang Le ing Tony Leung and Tan magnificent

"La Vie en Rose" Son ing that they might as the Best Actress trophy Marion Cotillard, wh the legendary French c Edith Piaf.

"Gone Baby Gone"—fleck's directoral deb buzz-worthy performa his brother, Casey Aff Amy Ryan.

"Sweeney Todd" Depp, Helena Bonha and director Tim Burton said

"Away From Her." F Julie Christie from "Doc go?" She's a frontrunner Actress race for her turn a the early stages of Alzhei "American Gangste Dee.

"Atonement"—Sagitt who was only 12 when this film, steals the thul Keira Knightley and McAvoy.

"Eastern Promise" Mortensen and filmma Cronenberg are provin formidable combination follow-up to "A Histor lence."

"Into the Wild" Sean director and Emile H ts

It's never too late than never' success stories in the biz

OMERS, quickly As a Muhlach now a few w it, he sensation, FPJ and

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre



writing about our being bowled over by her obviously outstanding singing voice. Aas, she didn't emerge as winner of the contest, and we expressed our disappointment over this. But, it now turns out that Chance's success had only been deferred. Even before her triumph on US television, Charice's talent had already been discovered and appreciated in Sweden and Korea.

So, to other young talents like Charice, hang on, you'll eventually have your day in the hot and heady show biz run.

Our second "eventual success" story involves a screenwriter, Mary Ann Bautista. A decade ago, Mary Ann's screenplay, "Kasal, Kasali, Kasalo," won second place in the Film Development Foundation's (now Council) national scriptwriting competition.

Belated recognition

Foundation head Marichu Maceda believed so much in Mary Ann's potential that she effected the sale of the "Kasal" script to Star Cinema. Unfortunately, the screenplay wasn't put into production—for various reasons—for years on end.

It took a full decade for "Kasal" to finally be made into a film, starring Judy Ann Santos and Ryan Agoncillo and directed by Joey Reyes—and the rest is pop history.

The film has won a slew of awards, most recently a number of Film Academy of the Philippines Luna Awards trophies, with Joey and Mary Ann sharing the award for Best Screenplay.

Congratulations, Joey and Mary Ann. We trust that this latest citation renews your energy and creativity, with more outstanding screenplays to come.

Thanks to the (be)ated success of "Kasal," Mary Ann has "suddenly" become a much sought-after scriptwriter. The good news is that she has three other exceptional finished screenplays just waiting for the right producers and directors to transform them into similarly successful films.

Let's not wait another decade for this to happen, shall we?

To other young talents like Charice, hang on, you'll eventually have your day in the heady show biz run.

SHANG CINEPLEX

1. BAHAY KUBO PG-13 1:05, 3:50, 6:35, 9:20	2. KATAS NG SAUDI PG 11:50, 2:15, 4:40, 7:05, 9:30	3. SAKAL, SAKALI, SAKLOLO PG-13 2:30, 4:55, 7:20, 9:45	4. ENTENG KABISOTE 4 PG 11:50, 2:15, 4:40, 7:05, 9:30
--	--	--	---

PREMIERE THEATERS **CLOSED**

Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice.

Catch the Cineplex Special

Avail the Shang Cineplex E-see Club Giftcards
The Perfect Giftcard for the Holiday Season!
It's a gift your family and friends will surely appreciate.
Enjoy 10% discount on the E-see club membership fee.
Limited offer from Nov. 30, 2007 - Jan. 15, 2008 only.

6th Floor, Shangri-La Plaza Mall
EDSA corner Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City
Call 633-2227 or 633-4735 for more details.

POWER PLANT

ROCKWELL CENTER, PASAY

RESIKLO PG 1:00, 3:20, 5:40, 8:00, 10:20	ENTENG KABISOTE 4 PG 12:50, 3:10, 5:30, 7:50, 10:10	SHAKE RATTLE & ROLL 9 PG 11:40, 2:20, 5:00, 7:40, 10:20
BAHAY KUBO PG 11:50, 2:30, 5:10, 7:50, 10:30	KATAS NG SAUDI PG 1:30, 3:40, 5:50, 8:00, 10:10	SAKAL, SAKALI, SAKLOLO PG-13 11:00, 1:10, 3:30, 5:50, 8:10, 10:30

MOVIES & SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GREENHILLS CINEMAS

THE PROMENADE

1. RESIKLO PG 10:35, 1:15, 3:55, 6:35, 9:15	2. ENTENG KABISOTE 4 PG 11:40, 2:20, 5:00, 7:40, 10:20	3. SAKAL, SAKALI, SAKLOLO PG-13 11:00, 1:10, 3:30, 5:50, 8:10, 10:30
---	--	--

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA MOVIES, CALL 722-0006.

MUSIC MUSEUM

TELENOVELA

FOR INQUIRIES PLS. CALL 722-4532 LOC 116

WILL THERE BE AWARD IN DANIEL DAY-LEWIS' NEAR FUTURE?

In Paul Thomas Anderson's excellent "There Will Be Blood," Daniel (kneeling) is a strong Best Actor contender for his brilliant portrayal of a down-and-out silver miner who becomes an oil tycoon. Co-star Paul Dano, playing a preacher, matches the intensity of Daniel's performance.

Holbrook turn in a fascinating portrait of a young man who turns his back on the material world. This was based on a true story.

"Once"—Unforgettable songs and performances from Glen Hansard and Marketa Irgova.

"Lars and the Real Girl"—Only Ryan Gosling can make a story about a guy and his life-like sex doll engrossing.

E-mail the columnist at rvnepales5585@yahoo.com and read his blog, "The Nepales Report," on www.inquirerbloggers.net/nepalesreport.

EASTWOOD CINEMAS

1. SHAKE, RATTLE, & ROLL 9
PG
1:50, 4:50, 7:50, 10:40

2. SAKAL, SAKALI, SAKLOLO
PG-13
12:10, 2:50, 5:30, 8:10, 10:50

3. ENTENG KABISOTE
PG-13
12:55, 3:20, 5:45, 8:10, 10:30

4. RESIKLO
PG-13
2:05, 4:35, 7:05, 10:20

For inquiries, call: 687-6963

GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

NICOLAS CAGE

WALT DISNEY PICTURES PRESENTS

NATIONAL TREASURE: BOOK OF SECRETS

IN CINEMAS JANUARY 08

Distributed by WDSMP thru Columbia Pictures Industries Inc.

MTRCB PG-13 | children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

OPENS JANUARY 8

GET ENCHANTED!

Her Seven Dorks

Evil Sisters

The Prince

Amanda Bynes Sara Paxton
Sydney White
...and The Seven Dorks.

Best of 2007

the Val ey and Josh in "No then broth- Angelina drew that pag nomi y Adams, d James Luma and ken and We thank ng film. film did US but it especially e, the dar- g Wei are e are say- wek hand ready to portrays hanteuse, Ben Af- ut netted ces from beck, and —Johnny n Carter n Enough remémber or Zhiva- n the Best s a wife in ner's. r" Ruby Ronan, she made der from James "—Viggo er David to be a in their of Vio n Penn as n and Hal



Will there be awards in Daniel Day-Lewis' near future? In Paul Thomas Anderson's excellent "There Will Be Blood," Daniel (kneeling) is a strong Best Actor contender for his brilliant portrayal of a down-and-out silver miner who becomes an oil tycoon. Co-star Paul Dano, playing a preacher, matches the intensity of Daniel's performance.

Holbrook turn in a fascinating portrait of a young man who turns his back on the material world. This was based on a true story.

"Once"—Unforgettable songs and performances from Glen Hansard and Marketa Irgova.

"Lars and the Real Girl"—Only Ryan Gosling can make a story about a guy and his life-like sex doll engrossing.

E-mail the columnist at rvnepales5585@yahoo.com and read his blog, "The Nepales Report," on www.inquirerbloggers.net/nepalesreport.

COMMUNICATIONS INFORMATION

ENTERTAINMENT

TRANSACTIONS



**Kahit gaano man karami ang trip,
get to watch it with the leader, SMART.**

With SMART, the leader in mobile entertainment, get to watch MORE of your favorite comedy, cartoons, fashion, sports, news, and celebrity videos on your cellphone anytime, anywhere!

Go to wap.smart.com.ph/3G and click on "TV" or "Downloads"

Mobile Video

Disney Christmas
Beauty and the Beast
Lilo and Stitch
Mickey and Friends
Pooh and Friends
Aristocats

Cartoons
Betty Boop
Bugs Bunny
Felix the Cat
Superman
Tom and Jerry

Funny Videos
Cross Dresser
Farting Girl
Flying Sweaters
On the Bench
Sticky Paper

Sports
Badminton
Basketball
Boxing
Golf
Taekwondo

Celebrities
Avril Lavigne
Lindsay Lohan
Paris Hilton
Sharon Stone
Tori Spelling

TV
ABS-CBN
GMA
ANC
DZMM
Discovery Channel

Activate your 3G/GPRS handset now. Just send SET <phone model> to 211 Ex. SET N70

Standard video streaming & downloading rates apply. Service is handset dependent.
For questions, comments, or concerns, you may call the SMART Hotline at 888-1111 via landline, or *888 using your SMART cellphone.
You may also visit www.smart.com.ph/3G/Video for more details.

SMART
THE POWER TO LEAD

INQUIRER Sunday CLASSIFIEDS

The Widest Reaching Classifieds

P245 per column centimeter

P75 per line

All prices exclusive of VAT

for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Mondays to Saturdays
12:00 noon
Day before publication

DEADLINES
Sundays
12:00 noon
every Thursday

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING DIVISION

E-mail: advertising@inquirer.com.ph
Male Office: Pasong Tamar, Makati City
☎ 8972535 (Direct) ☎ 8972508 (Toll-free) ☎ 8974008
G/F Aseana Bldg., Makati Ave., Makati City
☎ 8 14161 ☎ 81 4378 ☎ 8 140 2 Fax 8925578
2/F Aseana Bldg., Aseana Blvd., Quezon City
☎ 9 490851 ☎ 9 490852 ☎ 9 490853
SM Megamall, Mandaluyong City
☎ 635011 ☎ 6372354 ☎ 6372364 Fax 6350320
D/F Traveler's Life Bldg., 490 T.M. Kalaw St.,
Ermita, Manila (In front of National Library)
☎ 523 5570 (Toll-free) Loc. 15 or 116 ☎ 525 7378
Alabang, Muntinlupa City
☎ 8524503 ☎ 8506465 Fax 8506445
Classifieds Hotline: ☎ 837 2008

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2007

ANNOUNCEMENT

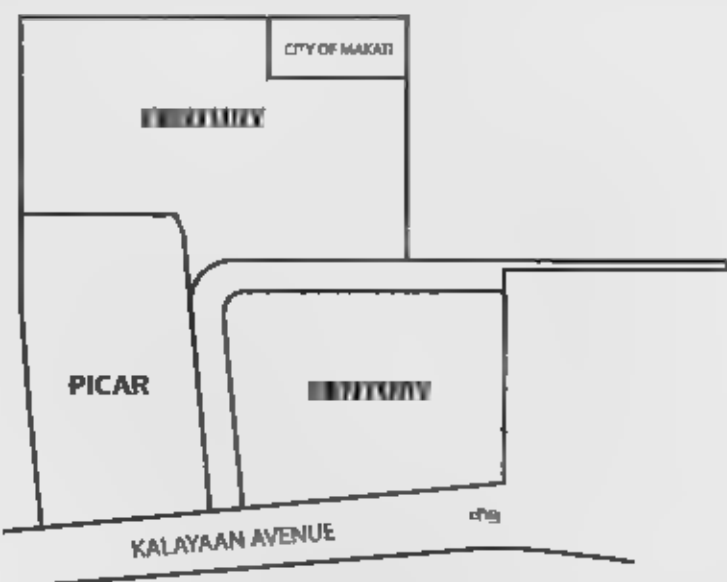
The former International School Manila Property ("ISM Property") lot was bidded out by the Philippine Government in 2006 and won by a consortium led by CENTURY PROPERTIES GROUP, consisting of Century City Development Corporation and its subsidiaries ("Century"), and PICAR HOLDINGS INC. ("Picar"), a member of the AMA Group of Companies.

Century owns and will develop on its 3.4 hectares, while Picar owns and will develop on its 1.3 hectares. Please refer to map below for illustrative ownership.

Century is calling its share of the ISM Property, "Century City", and plans to build a mixed used complex, which includes its first class residential condominium, the Gramercy Residences, as well as a retail complex and an IT Park.

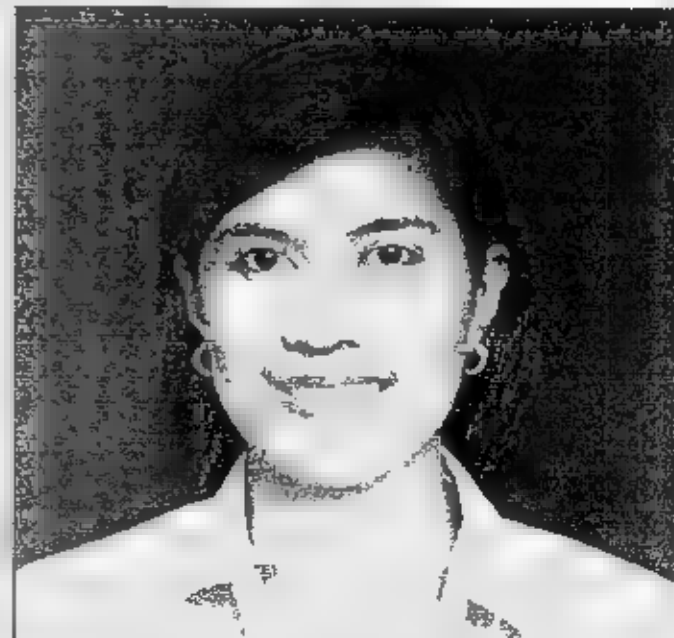
Picar is calling its share in the ISM Property, "Picar Centre". It plans to develop together with its foreign partners a 50 storey hotel with 400 rooms and 400 serviced apartments on top of it, and another 50 storey residential condominium. Its podium will consist of retail and a portion for BPO locators.

Picar has the exclusive right to build and operate the "5-star" hotel which is designed by world class designers, Jerde Partnership.



(PDI - December 30, 2007)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC



This is to inform the public that
Ms. Maryeen Sangalang Vargas,
of Block 10 Lot 3 Golden City Subdivision,
Canlalay, Biñan, Laguna (last known address)
whose picture appears above is no longer
connected with **LBC Development Bank** since
September 17, 2007
Any transaction entered into with her shall no
longer be honored by the company.

International Company Needs

MD80 LICENSED ENGINEER

To work in Clarkfield Pampanga

For interview & orientation

Call: 0916-5152795 or send

curriculum vitae to:

kukovazquez@yahoo.com.ar

TOUCH ADVERTISING

"URGENT HIRING"

- COMPUTER TECHNICIAN
- MONITOR TECHNICIAN
- SALES EXECUTIVE WITH EXPERIENCE

APPLY AT : 681 Boni Avenue cor
Lagaya St., Mandaluyong City
10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

OR CALL : 535-9085 / 531-0787
Look for : Mr. Rodol and Ms. Rose
Bring Your Resume

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given to the public that one (1) booklet of OFFICIAL RECEIPT with series number 0151 to 0200 of JUGRO TRANSPORT INT'L PHILS CORP. was lost last December 14, 2007 by Mr. Jennison F. Paquibot, messenger of Jugro Cebu.

Any alleged payment covered by those Official Receipts will not be honored. Official Receipt issued under the lot booklet please report to the following:

email add: antonia@jugro.com or jlara@jugro.com
telephone number: 09188580055 or 09175142115

(PDI - Dec. 30, 2007)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Alkeen A. Ingal, whose picture appears herewith, is no longer connected with the Soriano Multi-Purpose Fiber Corporation (SMPFC) and is not authorized to transact any business in the name of the company. Any transaction made by Mr. Ingal on behalf of SMPFC after 20 November 2007 shall not be honored.



(PDI - Dec. 30, 2007)



National Transmission Corporation
Republic of the Philippines

December 17, 2007

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Supply, Delivery, Installation, Test and Commissioning of
One (1) unit Gyro Stabilized UV/Video/Thermal Imaging Powerline
Inspection System (ATO-07-45531)

- The National Transmission Corporation (TransCo), through the Annual Corporate Budget of 2007 intends to apply the sum of PHILIPPINE PESO THIRTY SEVEN MILLION FOUR HUNDRED EIGHTY ONE THOUSAND PESOS (P37,481,000.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payment under the contract for the Supply, Delivery, Installation, Test and Commissioning of One (1) Unit Gyro Stabilized UV/Video/Thermal Imaging Powerline Inspection System. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected.
- TransCo now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the Supply, Delivery, Installation, Test and Commissioning of One (1) Unit Gyro Stabilized UV/Video/Thermal Imaging Powerline Inspection System. The duration of the contract is Two Hundred Ten (210) Calendar Days. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last fifteen (15) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed contract for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.
- Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRP-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5163 (R.A. 5163) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
- Interested Bidders may obtain further information from TransCo and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., during working days starting December 26, 2007.
- A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of PHP 5,000.00. The method of payment will be on cash basis only. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
- TransCo will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on January 15, 2008 at 9:00 A.M. at the Training Center Building, National Transmission Corporation Power Center, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines.
- Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before the date and time specified in Item 8 below. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form and in the amount specified in Clause 22, Section II, Bid Data Sheet of the Bidding documents or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
- Bid opening shall be on January 30, 2008 at 9:00 A.M. at the Training Center Building, National Transmission Corporation, Power Center, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines.
- Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the said address.
- The bidding is also open to foreign bidders with eligibility requirements described in Clause 3 above and in the Bidding Documents.
- TransCo reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Mr. R. D. NABONG
Manager, Bids & Contracts Management Department
Ground Floor, Power Center
National Transmission Corporation
Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road
1104 Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines
Telephone No. (632) 981-2212 / 981-2213; 921-23-08
Fax No. (632) 921-23-08
Website: <http://www.transco.ph>

(Sgd.) ATTY. NOEL Z. DE LEON
Chairman, Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI - December 22 & 23, 2007)



Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
Regional Office No. IV-A

3rd Flr., Anderson Bldg. II, Brgy. Pinar, Calamba City
December 30, 2007

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATIONS FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT(S) (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s.

Name and Address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National/Citizenship	Position
1. AMKOR TECHNOLOGY PHILIPPINES, INC. Laguna Technopark, Biñan, Laguna	Mr. Eun Teeg Mohl Korean	Section Manager ICS-SAP/ITF
2. PHILKO INNOVATIONS & TECHNOLOGY, INC. SCIE, 60 Bancal, Carmona, Cavite	Mr. Seong Ho Hwang/ Korean	President and CEO
3. YCY TECHNOLOGY PHILS., INC. PEZA, Rosario, Cavite	Mr. Yeon Bang/ Korean	Manager
4. PENN PHILIPPINES EXPORT INC. LIP, Brgy. Manglocan, Biñan, Laguna	Mr. Jerome Rene Gilles Muratol/ French	Manager - Dyeing & Finishing for Operations
5. TOYOTA BOSHOKU PHILS., CORP. Laguna Technopark, Biñan, Laguna	Mr. Yushi Kondal/ Japanese	Asst. Gen. Manager - Marketing, Procurement & Accounting
6. PANAC CO. LTD. Laguna Technopark, Biñan, Laguna	Mr. Satoshi Inokuchi/ Japanese	Vice Representative
7. PANAC CO. LTD. Laguna Technopark, Biñan, Laguna	Mr. Hidetaka Akutsu/ Japanese	Chief Representative

If you have any information/objection to the above-mentioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director

ATTY. RICARDO S. MARTINEZ, SR., CESO III
Regional Director

(PDI - December 30, 2007)

+ Doctor Pill Pulverizer



3 in 1 Use:

- Medicine Pulverizer
- Medicine Cutter
- Pocket Medicine Container

LST Summit, Inc.

Mandaluyong City, Philippines
Tel No. 8522 234 8812, 234 2888
Email: info@lstsmit.com.ph

Available in all

mercury drug

4441 DILIMAN BLVD. ST. LAUREN, MANILA

ELIM EXPORT SUBIC BAY INC.

2nd Floor Standard Factory
Innovative cor. Efficiency Ave.
Subic Bay Industrial Park, Subic Bay Freeport Zone
Tel. No. 047 252 8680 / Fax No. 047 252 8681

Qualification
Two (2) Managers
Male / not more than 40 years of age
Must be Degree Holder or a Bachelor
University Graduate is a plus
3-5 years experience as Manager in Foreign country
Must speak and can write Korean, Mandarin languages

For info, pls. call Ms. Ma Jean Q. Ede
☎ 0917-6009791

Where you find the best.



Read in every Sunday with the Philippine Daily Inquirer.



Bare to ask. Be an inquirer

Jose "Peping" Mendoza Landas Jr.

Peacefully joined his Creator on the 23rd of December 2007 at the age of 72.

His bereaved wife Nanay Luning; daughters Girlie & Noel Villanueva, Pinky & Roy Mendoza, grandchildren Jelle, Nikki, Blanche, Bubuy & Badie; brother Bert & Carmen; sisters & sister-in-law Itang, Nene, Fannie, Baby & Dolly; nephews & nieces Jofie, Gina, Bobet & Juliet, Porci, Owen & Georgina, Darwin & Jonap, relatives & friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Landas residence at #43 Mabolo II, Bacoor, Cavite.

Interment will be at 3 o'clock in the afternoon of Wednesday, 2nd of January 2008 at Eternity Memorial Garden, Bacoor, Cavite after the 1 o'clock funeral service.

VIVIAN NUBLA SY

30th MARCH 1952 – 19th DECEMBER 2007
Peacefully joined our Lord in Vancouver at the age of 55

She is remembered by her loving husband, **Edward**, her children, **Tracey, Karla, and Mark**, her family and friends, who request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

A memorial mass will be held on Friday, 4th January 2008, 6 o'clock in the evening, at the Immaculate Conception Academy Chapel #10 Grant Street, Greenhills West, San Juan

In lieu of flowers, donations to the BC Cancer Foundation (<http://donate.bccancerfoundation.com/goto/VivianSy>) will be highly appreciated.

CONCEPCION MAMARIL LESACA

Peacefully joined her Creator on December 27, 2007 at the age of 87

Her husband Dr. Ernesto Sr. (t); children Ernie, Eve, Jose, Roland and Annie; in-laws, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, relatives and friends request your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Chapel A, La Funeraria Paz, Inc., Q. Aracelis Ave., Q.C. and will be transferred to Botolan, Zambales on Monday, December 31, 2007.

Interment will be on January 5, 2008 at Botolan, Zambales.

LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.

Tel. Nos.: 712-3001; 749-3806 to 11

NAME OF DECEASED	PLACE OF INTERMENT	DATE & TIME	PLACE
CONCEPCION LESACA	Chapel A	December 31, 2007	Botolan, Zambales
LORETO VICTORIANO SISON	Chapel E	December 30, 2007 2:00 p.m.	Holy Cross

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life." John 3:16

DEATH NOTICE

NORMAN DELA PAZ

March 16, 1948 – December 27, 2007
Peacefully joined his Creator at the age of 59.

His remains lie in state at their residence at 824 San Rafael III, Noveleta, Cavite. Interment will be on January 3, 2008 at 2:00 p.m. at the LOVE Memorial, Noveleta, Cavite after the 1:00 p.m. Mass at the Holy Cross Parish Church.

NATIVIDAD NARVAEZ SAMBO

July 21, 1930 – December 28, 2007

Her loving husband Pete (t); children Ernie Millard & Leah, Angeline & Mark, Joseph Homer & Nanette, Ma. Cristina & Rommel, Ma. Lourdes & Felix; her sister Nena N. Inzon, grandchildren Hanna Leah, James Millard, Naomi Ann, Sarah Mae, John Homer, Joseph Harry, Kim, John Marco, Joannie, John Carlo & John Patrick and other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at her residence at 544 Panday St., Goa, Camarines Sur.

Interment details will be announced later.

CLASSIFIEDS

Republic of the Philippines PROVINCE OF ISABELA OFFICE OF THE BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Provincial Government of Isabela, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites the following:

FOR CIVIL WORKS

A. Construction registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility, and if found eligible, to bid for the hereunder contract:

NAME OF PROJECT	LOCATION	ABC	BIDDING FEE
Repair of Tumauini Nat'l High Sch.	Tumauini, Isabela	P 292,000.00	P 500.00
Re-paving of Villa Luz Bridge	Dagupan, Isabela	P 400,000.00	P 500.00
Beaver Bridge Slope Protection	Burgos, Isabela	P 150,000.00	P 500.00
Const. of OPA-Nursery Perimeter Fence	Iligan, Isabela	P 184,700.00	P 500.00
Construction of powerhouse for gensets	Iligan, Isabela	P 500,000.00	P 500.00
Construction of 2 classroom Elementary School Buildings (8 projects)	Provincewide	P 6,852,000.00	P 1,000.00/project
Construction of 2 classroom High School Buildings (3 projects)	Provincewide	P 2,439,000.00	P 1,000.00/project
Construction of 3 classroom Elementary School Buildings (2 projects)	Provincewide	P 2,231,410.00	P 1,250.00/project
Construction of 3 classroom Integrated School Buildings (2 projects)	Provincewide	P 2,231,410.00	P 1,250.00/project
Concrete of 1 km. Provincial Road (6 projects)	Provincewide	Php 90,000,000.00	P 6,000.00 per project

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB license applicable to the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel and equipment (listed in the Eligibility Forms) available for the prosecution of the contract. The BAC will use non-discriminatory pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC will conduct post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to the Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of RA 8184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

SCHEDULE OF BIDDING ACTIVITIES

BAC ACTIVITIES	SCHEDULE
1. Receipt from prospective bidders of Letters of Intent (LOI) including application for eligibility	January 11, 2008, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM at the BAC Secretariat Office, Capitol, Albague, Iligan, Isabela
2. Issuance of Eligibility Forms	January 14, 2008, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM at the BAC Secretariat Office, Capitol, Albague, Iligan, Isabela
3. Receipt of Eligibility Requirements	January 18, 2008, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM at the BAC Secretariat Office, Capitol, Albague, Iligan, Isabela
4. Notice of Results of Eligibility Check	January 22, 2008, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM at the BAC Secretariat Office, Capitol, Albague, Iligan, Isabela
5. Issuance of Bid Documents	January 24-25, 2008, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM at the BAC Secretariat Office, Capitol, Albague, Iligan, Isabela
6. Pre-Bid Conference	January 30, 2008, 10:00 AM at the Governor's Office Mini-Conference Hall, Capitol, Albague, Iligan, Isabela
7. Receipt and Opening of Bids	On or before 10:00 AM, February 11, 2008 at the Governor's Office Mini-Conference Hall, Capitol, Albague, Iligan, Isabela

The BAC will issue to prospective bidders Eligibility Form at BAC Secretariat Office, Capitol, Albague, Iligan, Isabela, upon their submission of LOI, and upon their payment of a non-refundable amount of Five Hundred Pesos (P500.00) to the Provincial Treasurer's Office. Prospective bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC at the said address. They may also obtain the results of the Eligibility Check by the BAC at the same address.

FOR GOODS

B. Distributors, wholesalers and/or suppliers in the pre-eligibility activity and to participate in the sealed competitive bidding for the procurement of the following:

Project Ref. No.	ABC	BIDDING FEE
A. One (1) unit Brand New Bulldozer	Php 19,000,000.00	P 3,000.00
B. One (1) unit Brand New Excavator and	Php 5,500,000.00	P 5,000.00
C. One (1) unit Brand New Grader	Php 8,500,000.00	P 8,500.00
D. One (1) unit Ferry Boat	Php 1,000,000.00	P 1,000.00
E. One (1) unit Electronic Total Station	Php 250,000.00	P 500.00
F. Various Medical Equipment	Php 2,000,000.00	P 2,000.00
G. Various IT Equipment	Php 1,295,000.00	P 1,200.00
H. Various Office Equipment	Php 791,727.00	P 700.00

SCHEDULE OF BIDDING ACTIVITIES

PROJECT REF. NO.	Availability of Bid Docs	Pre-Bid Conference	Deadline of Submission of Bids	Opening of Bids
A, B, C, D & E	January 28-29, 2008, from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM at the BAC Secretariat Office, Capitol, Albague, Iligan, Isabela	February 1, 2008, 10:00 AM at the Governor's Office Mini-Conference Hall, Capitol, Albague, Iligan, Isabela	February 5, 2008, 10:00 AM at the Governor's Office Mini-Conference Hall, Capitol, Albague, Iligan, Isabela	February 15, 2008, 10:30 AM at the Governor's Office Mini-Conference Hall, Capitol, Albague, Iligan, Isabela
F, G & H	February 4-5, 2008, from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM at the BAC Secretariat Office, Capitol, Albague, Iligan, Isabela	February 8, 2008, 10:00 AM at the Governor's Office Mini-Conference Hall, Capitol, Albague, Iligan, Isabela	February 20, 2008, 10:00 AM at the Governor's Office Mini-Conference Hall, Capitol, Albague, Iligan, Isabela	February 20, 2008, 10:30 AM at the Governor's Office Mini-Conference Hall, Capitol, Albague, Iligan, Isabela

Complete set of bid proposal forms may be acquired from the BAC Secretariat Office, Capitol, Iligan, Isabela upon payment of non-refundable bidding fee specified above at the Provincial Treasurer's Office.

The Provincial Government of Isabela reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any required formally and award the contract to any bidder whose proposal has been evaluated by the BAC as the most advantageous. The Provincial Government assumes no obligations whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense or loss that they may incur in the preparation of their bids, neither does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) MA. THERESA ARANETA-FLORES
BAC Chairperson

CLASSIFIEDS

Arabic translation required on passports of Libya-bound Pinoys

THE GOVERNMENT TODAY ADVISED OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS (OFWs) bound for Libya to adhere to that country's newly imposed regulation requiring their passports to carry the appropriate Arabic translation.

In a report to Labor and Employment Secretary Arturo D. Brion, the Philippine Overseas Labor Office (PoLO) in Tripoli, Libya said that non-adherence by OFWs to the new policy would severely affect their entry or re-entry to Libya, resulting in deportation.

Labor Attaché Nasser S. Mustafa, who heads the PoLO in Libya, warned that after the new policy was implemented by the Libyan government, three OFWs returning to Tripoli after vacation were not allowed to re-enter the country, and were deported back to the Philippines.

Mustafa said the three OFWs were not allowed to re-enter Libya because the first page of their passports, which gives the personal circumstances of the bearer, had not been translated from English to Arabic language.

He indicated that other foreign nationals entering Libya without the required translations in their passports had also been deported back to their countries of origin, while those leaving

Libya are not allowed to board their planes.

Mustafa said the new rule has been issued by the Great Libyan Arab Jamahiriya General People's Committee for Transport and Telecommunication (Civil Aviation Authority) effective Nov. 11, and covers all foreign and local nationals coming in and going out of Libya. Exempted are members of the diplomatic corps, senior government officials, and VIP guests of Libya.

"Considering that the Libyan airport authorities have been strictly enforcing the policy, it is important that all concerned, particularly OFWs should be aware of the guidelines in order to preclude adverse consequences," he said.

He added that Libya-bound OFWs should have the required translation done by the proper issuing authority of the country of origin, or any legal translation offices accredited to the country of origin, which are in both instances the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), or the Office of Muslim Affairs (OMA).

"The translation should be imprinted/stamped in a page of the passport and not as a separate document, and the page should show the seal of the proper issuing authority," Mustafa said.

NREA shares gifts to Pampanga Aetas

IN APPRECIATION OF THE ORGANIZATION'S gains and blessings, the National Real Estate Association (NREA) capped 2007 with its annual sharing and gift-giving with some Aeta families at the NREA - Jesclare Chapel atop a ridge in Sitio Bansa, Bgy Dolores in Porac, Pampanga.

Conducted by NREA officers, members and employees, the traditional reach out activity was led by Jose V. Manalad, NREA founder and chair; Alejandro S. Mañalac, NREA national president; and by Engr. Roy S. Beating, NREA treasurer and committee chairperson for the event.

Gifts, mostly rice, food and other grocery items, including clothes earlier donated as

Christmas offerings by NREA members and friends, were given to some 100 Aeta families and 100 indigent families in Dolores, Porac in Pampanga.

The gift-giving was preceded by a Thanksgiving mass officiated by Rev. Father Allan D. Sicat of Porac Parish and the Feeding Program.

Other committee members for this occasion are Lhane Sta. Juana and Bernardo Ejada, vice chair; Jesse Rebutillo, Peter David, Malou Aguilan, Lita Majari, Juling Pingo, Evelyn Javier, Eva Cecilio, Beck Alguero, Beating Caballes, Tes Ignacio, Mrs. Sarmiento and the Barangay Tanods.

People, Events & Products

Where families can create fond memories

NEW HIGH-END COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT Plaza Crest is an oasis of peaceful and privileged living in the heart of Parañaque City near Sucat Road.

A 2.7-hectare development comprising of garden villas, walk-up condominiums and townhouses, Plaza Crest is conceptualized after "urbanism," a community concept that encourages people to go out on foot within the secured environment to socialize, relax, shop and play.

Upon entering its gates, residents will leave behind the chaos of the city and be transported into lush landscapes and a relaxed environment reflecting countryside scenes.

The master planned community conceptualized by two of the country's most prominent architectural companies, Palafox Associates and RMDA Architects, Plaza Crest offers the convenience to residents as it is very near offices, schools, malls, and shops.

Plaza Crest is the biggest project and first venture of developer DO Plaza Estates Inc (Dopei) to go into higher-end development. The company has a track record of developing low-cost residences mostly in Cavite. Plaza Crest is Dopei's premiere and luxury project to date.

Inside out, Plaza Crest offers the lifestyle and living at par with what other high-end developments offer, but at an affordable cost. Choosing to live within Plaza Crest residences is like having fun, comfort, security, bonding and relaxation 24/7.

The community has a three-meter high perimeter fence and a security camera. Amenities include a clubhouse, underground utilities, pocket gardens and jogging paths, a vast swimming pool, badminton and basketball courts. Residents are also assured of enough water supply, as there's enough provision provided by a 100 cubic meter tower of water and a cistern of 200.

With Plaza Crest, the whole design and layout offers innovative use of space, numerous design touches that reflect Dopei's unwavering commitment to satisfy every home buyer. Every Plaza Crest design is aimed at enriching the lifestyle of its homeowners for so many years to come.

Carlos Plaza, marketing services manager of Dopei, says they are not just land developers, but more of community builders. "We're not just here to build houses and sell them. It is in our best interest that the community does well, because the success of the community is our own success."

'Step up to '08' New Year party

2008 IS COMING, WHERE WILL YOU BE?

On New Year's Eve, sister hotels' Crowne Plaza Galleria Manila and Holiday Inn Galleria Manila are hosting an all-night New Year countdown dance party.

From 9 p.m. onwards, you can dance 2007 away and greet the New Year with a "swing" to decades-old hits such as "Flash Dance", "Grease", "Break Dance" and "Chicago", all of which made our lives upbeat and brighter throughout all these years.

The party, with live performances by Noah's Ark and Music Genre will highlight dance tunes of the past. Dance instructors and professional dance groups will be on hand to keep guests on their feet, while street mimes and face painters will keep the little ones occupied. At the stroke of midnight, an indoor fireworks exhibition will light up Crowne Plaza Galleria Manila's Grand Ballroom.

Tickets are available for only P750 per person, inclusive of sparkling wine for toasting and New Year party favors. If you are in for a night of pure ease and enjoyment, stay at Crowne Plaza for only P5,888++ per room, inclusive of overnight stay, early buffet breakfast (breakfast buffet will open at 4 a.m. on New Year's Day), and complimentary tickets for two to the New Year countdown party. With the same inclusions, you may choose to stay at its sister and neighbor, Holiday Inn Galleria Manila for only P4,888++ per person.

For advance reservations and information, call the dedicated reservation lines at 633-7222 local 7388 for Crowne Plaza and 633-7111 local 7452 for Holiday Inn.

Crowne Plaza Galleria Manila and Holiday Inn Galleria Manila are members of the international hotel chain Intercontinental Hotels Group (IHG).

PATTSean tops Aero board exam once more

ENGINEER JOHN FILEMON T. TORRES, A 2007 BS Aeronautical Engineering graduate of PATT's College of Aeronautics, Lombos Avenue, San Isidro, Parañaque City, topped this year's Aeronautical Engineering Board Licensure Examinations administered Nov. 20 to 22 by the Professional Regulations Commission. Since its inception in 1983, a PATTSean, for the 21st time, reaped the much-coveted top spot. This 21-year-old is one of five children of businessman Filemon Torres and accountant Amabel Torres. Graduating as the first Magna Cum Laude in the Aeronautical Engineering department four months before the board exam, Torres ranked first despite the tough schedule of reviewing after his office work as junior

structures engineer at the structures and systems section of Lufthansa Technik Philippines, and attending his review classes at the PATT's Review Center on weekends. The PATT's Review Center is under the close supervision and guidance of licensed and experienced engineers. The new engineer will be leaving sometime in January for a 10-day training at Altheon, a Boeing company in Seattle. Torres was the VP for internal affairs of Technical Subjects Academic Assistance, the 4th year representative of his course organization Aeronautical Engineering Research Organization and a finalist of the Inter-University Search for the Engineering Math Wizard during his college days at PATT's.



TORRES

Okinawans visit Manila, Cebu

PHILIPPINE CONSUL GENERAL Asako Alarcon has accompanied a big group of prominent Japanese visitors from Okinawa, led by Dr. Mikio Higa, president of Busena Resort Corp.

"The group is one of many others who continue to come to Manila via Taipei under a beyond-destination arrangement," said Team Japan head Director Benito C. Bengzon Jr. of the Department of Tourism (DOT).

"In fact, they also went to Cebu for sightseeing tours and stayed there for two nights before returning

ing to Manila," Bengzon added.

It was one of the trips being organized annually by the Office of the Philippine Honorary Consulate General in Okinawa. Stories about the unique experiences in the Philippines generated by such trips encourage many Okinawans, including those from their own tourism industry, to travel to Manila and visit the other parts of the archipelago.

"We are happy about the continued influx of Japanese tourists from Okinawa where the DOT is stepping up its marketing campaign," Beng-

zon added.

Similar campaigns in other emerging Japanese markets have been yielding positive results. Among them is Toyokawa City, where a so-called "Travel to the Philippines" program has been bringing in Japanese tourists, particularly seniors who comprise an 8.9-million Japan-wide market with an estimated separation pay of \$600 billion.

Toyokawa is part of the Aichi Prefecture, the site of the World Expo 2005 where the Philippines won various awards.



TEAM Japan head Director Benito C. Bengzon Jr. (3rd from left) with Okinawa Consul General Asako Alarcon (center) and

Japanese visitors led by Dr. Mikio Higa (5th from left), president of Busena Resort Corp., during their recent visit in Manila.

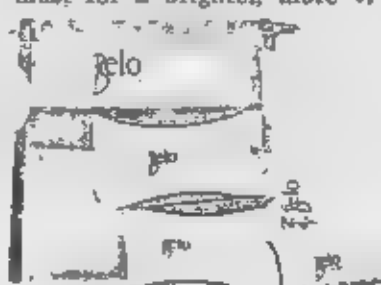
Have a Star White Christmas with Belo Essentials

NEED THE PERFECT GIFT FOR your loved ones this Christmas season? How about a complete makeover right in their fingertips?

Be more radiant in the most anticipated holiday (filled with sleigh bells, carols and boughs of holly) as Belo Essentials unravels its exclusive Star White Christmas Pack, meant for trendy and outgoing Filipinas who love caring for their skin.

Dr. Vicki Belo and her team of skin care experts from Intelligent Skin Care carry on with a common vision to "make the Philippines the most beautiful country, one person at a time" through the Belo

Essentials Star White Christmas Pack. This special gift set aims to encourage regular face and body whitening regimen as a must for a brighter, more vi-



brant, and blemish free Christmas celebration.

The Belo Essentials Star White Christmas Pack is equipped with

Whitening Face Wash, Whitening Lotion with SPF 15, and two Whitening Body Bars inside an exclusive silver leatherette vanity kit. It also comes with a personalized bag tag card signed by Dr. Belo. Now, you can have all-day whitening and protection for your skin everywhere you go!

Live the promise of beautiful skin this holiday season with the limited edition Belo Essentials Star White Christmas Pack, now available in all key retail outlets, select supermarkets, groceries, and drugstores nationwide.

For more information, call Intelligent Skin Care's hotline number, 889-ISC1 (4724).

Globe wins in 5th 'Best Annual Report' Awards

GLOBE RECENTLY WON "BEST IN CORPORATE Governance Disclosure for a Non-Financial Institution" and the 1st runner up for the "Best Annual Report" in the Management Association of the Philippines (MAP) 5th "Best Annual Report" Awards.

Through the awards, the MAP in cooperation with the Philippine Stock Exchange and the Securities & Exchange Commission, encourages listed companies to publish accurate, informative and timely annual reports and observe the principles of good corporate governance—transparency, accountability and fairness—to raise the disclosure practices of Philippine companies to international standards. It also recognizes user-friendly and visually appealing annual reports that entice the public to read, understand and learn from these.

Manila Water Company also won "Best in Visual Presentation" and 2nd runner up for the "Best Annual Report". The MAP also gave a special award to the Ayala Group as at least three of the conglomerate's companies made it to the top 20 finalists. Ayala Corp., Ayala Land and BPI were among the

finalists for the "Best Annual Report", together with Manila Water and Globe.

At the awards night Dec. 11 were (from left) investor rela-

tions head Cherry Chan-Tan, financial planning and analysis head Ditas L. Santamaria, and investor relations senior specialist Wesa A. Elomina.



'Better than Buffet' at Red Kimono

IT'S A BUFFET WITH A TWIST AT Red Kimono where you get to eat all you can without ever leaving your table for only P485 per head.

Just order one kettle of your favorite Kamameshi Rice variety for every 1 to 2 persons and avail of this Japanese culinary feast. Kamameshi rice, a traditional Japanese specialty, is cooked in individual authentic Japanese kettles. The secret of its sumptuous flavor is the sauce used in the cooking process. The rice slowly cooks in this flavorful sauce soaking in all of its delicious aroma and taste. Red Kimono's Kamameshi Rice selection comes in four delicious options—chicken, beef, ebi or shrimp and mixed Kamameshi.

With Red Kimono's "Better than Buffet" you don't

have to leave your table to savor great tasting Red Kimono specialties as every dish you choose is prepared fresh in the kitchen and delivered straight to you. So all you do is keep ordering as much as you like from a special menu of 40 items which includes Japanese favorites like sushi, teriyaki, tonkatsu, yakitori and so much more!

Start with an appetizer of crabstick rolls with wasabi mayonnaise or layered spinach and tofu with sweet miso sauce. Follow with steaming hot miso soup then

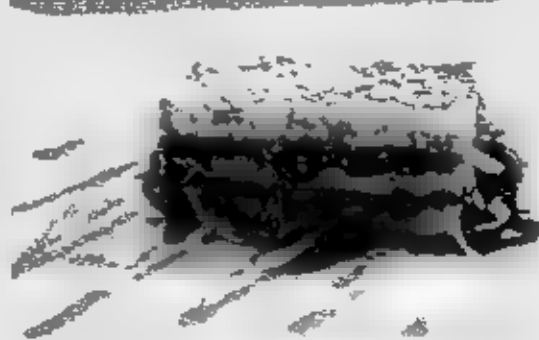
choose from California, tempura, futo or tekka maki. If you're feeling adventurous and want to try something unusual, sample the Sushi Bar specials like crunchy maki with tuna or ebi topping or indulge in the rich salmon and cream cheese maki.

Seafood lovers should try the mixed tempura of prawn, crabstick and vegetables. Old favorites like sukiyaki, tonkatsu and pork ribs teriyaki are also available. Chicken dishes include teriyaki, grilled miso chicken, yakitori, teppanyaki and tonkatsu.

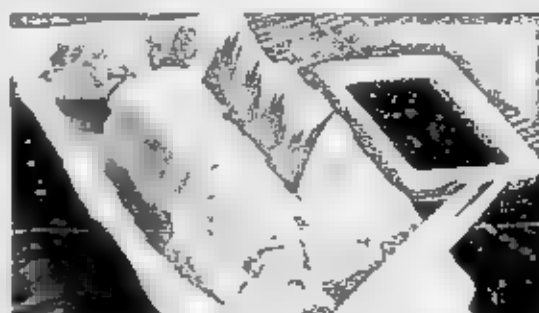
Vegetarians also have a wide range of options including tofu steak, shitake mushroom teppanyaki, kakeage or vegetable fritters, vegetable tempura, yasai itame or stir fried mixed vegetables plus green beans with peanut dressing or spinach with sesame dressing.

End your meal with luscious desserts like chewy chocolate and coconut balls with a soft strawberry center, buko pandan special with vanilla ice cream, pandan jelly and fresh coconut strips or have a scoop or two of vanilla ice cream.

Red Kimono's Fort branch is located at the ground floor, Fort Strip, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig (816-6642). The Pasig branch can be found at the ground floor, Silver City Mall, Frontera Verde complex, Julia Vargas corner E. Rodriguez Jr. Avenue, Pasig City (706-1464). Red Kimono caters and accepts reservations for corporate and social events. Log on to www.redkimono.com.ph for more details.



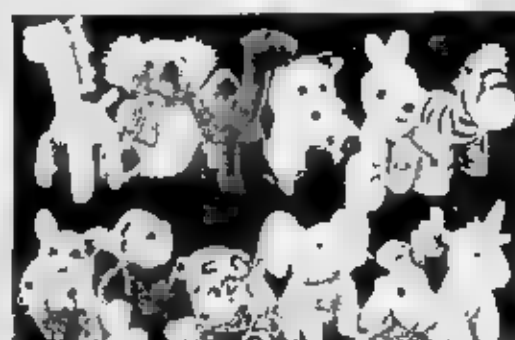
LAYERED spinach



SALMON and cream cheese maki

Gloria Jean's coffee beans-stuffed Beanies

BRING HOME THE AROMA OF GLORIA Jean's Coffees with the Coffee Beanies. Gloria Jean's Coffees recently introduced its exclusive Coffee Beanies, plush toys stuffed with Gloria Jean's Coffees' very own flavored coffee beans. It's a perfect gift to give to your loved ones. That's not all. It's also great for your car, office or any room as an air freshener too. Just buy four drinks to get a Coffee Beanie. Collect all 12 varieties—reindeer, kangaroo, koala, monkey, elephant, giraffe, zebra, camel, cow, hippo, leopard and unicorn. Visit any Gloria



Jean's Coffees outlet nationwide for details

CONVERGYS

Outthinking. Outdoing.

Break through!

location su-
voice calling
web chat as we
"ice" application
document processing.

The opening of the
was inspired from a
of reasons, one of which
the growing number of
opportunities it could afford
to all the fine talents from
Cebu. "Our commitment to
this facility
investments
work
to
Confere
Mueco, Vice
Operations.

As a result, Conm
ife Zamora en
per things to
pany. "With
d further exp
tend to do
of months
look for
jobs at
she say

"As one
leading providers of
PT

**BUILD
YOUR FUTURE
with US**

OPENINGS IN ALABANG:

With Sales Accounts offering up to P30,000
monthly sales incentive

Customer Service Associates
Recruitment Specialist
(at least 6 months recruitment experience is required)

OPENINGS IN CEBU:

Customer Care Associates
(Voice Non-voice, Technical & Semi-Technical Accounts)
Team Leaders
Culture & Communication Trainers
Quality Evaluators
Floor Coordinator
HR Officer
HR Specialist
Recruitment Specialist

OPENINGS IN COMMONWEALTH:

Inbound Customer Care Representatives - Satellite TV Account
Inbound Customer Care Representatives - Automotive Account
Technical Customer Care Representatives - Full Time
Technical Customer Care Representatives - Part Time
Client Services Manager - Technical Account
Operations Manager - Technical Account
Workforce Management Specialist
Administrative Assistant
Recruitment Officer
Recruitment Specialist
HR Officer

* Please email resumes to
rachel.ramirez@convergys.com

OPENINGS IN MAKATI:

Customer Service Associates
Technical Customer Service Associates
Administrative Assistant
Operations Manager - Customer Service Program, Financial
Apply at our Makati site and take home
up to P500-worth Gift Certificates

OPENINGS IN ORTIGAS:

Outbound Collections Representatives
Customer Service Associates
Customer Service Associates - Technical
Customer Service Associates - Financial and Sales
*Data Network Manager
*Senior HR Officer
*Sourcing Associate (Project Based)

**Get hired for our Technical Account in Ortigas
and take home a New Year Bonus!***

*Terms and conditions apply
* Please email resumes to
aireen.grace.a.palafox@convergys.com

Our office at the U-Belt is, likewise, accepting
applications for all Convergys sites.

Get P20,000 Christmas bonus

if you get hired for our SELECTED Technical Accounts
in Makati and Cebu

- P7,500 to be credited on the 1st paycheck
- P7,500 upon successful completion of product training
- P5,000 on the 90th day of employment

CONVERGYS is committed to the career growth of its
agents, team leaders, senior team leader
and operations managers through its highly-structured
career path and an intensive Management
Development Program

ALABANG OFFICE
Block 44, Marikina
Cylindrical
Muntinlupa City
(02) 755-1654 / 174199

CEBU BANAWA OFFICE
B. Ayconia St.
Arceles Estate
Banawa Hills
Cebu City

**CEBU ASIATOWN
IT PARK OFFICE**
11/F 12 Bldg.
Asiatown IT Park
Alabang Cebu City

COMMONWEALTH OFFICE
2/F Diliman Commercial Center
346 Don Mariano Marcos Ave.
Diliman, Quezon City

MAKATI OFFICE
Convergys One, 67th
Ayala Ave., cor Salcedo St.
Legaspi Village, Makati City

ORTIGAS OFFICE
24th Floor, Robinsons
Equestrian Tower, 24-25th Ave.
Ortigas Center, Pasig City

U-BELT OFFICE
Level 1, St. Thomas Square
1158 España Boulevard cor
Pardo Campa St.
Cebu City

**VISIT US NOW
AND GET YOUR
CHRISTMAS GIFT
FROM CONVERGYS.**



PHILIPPINE CONVERGYS INC. 5555 CVG (284)

**5555 CVG
(284)**

west

IT'S DIFFERENT HERE, IT'S BETTER HERE!

Now Hiring!

Customer Care Representatives

Handle incoming customer care calls for our premier client, a leading wireless phone service provider.

We Offer:

- Excellent compensation package for our Agents
- Rice/M Meal/Transportation Allowances
- Incentive and commission package
- West is where your loyalty is truly rewarded
- Referral incentives
- Career growth opportunities

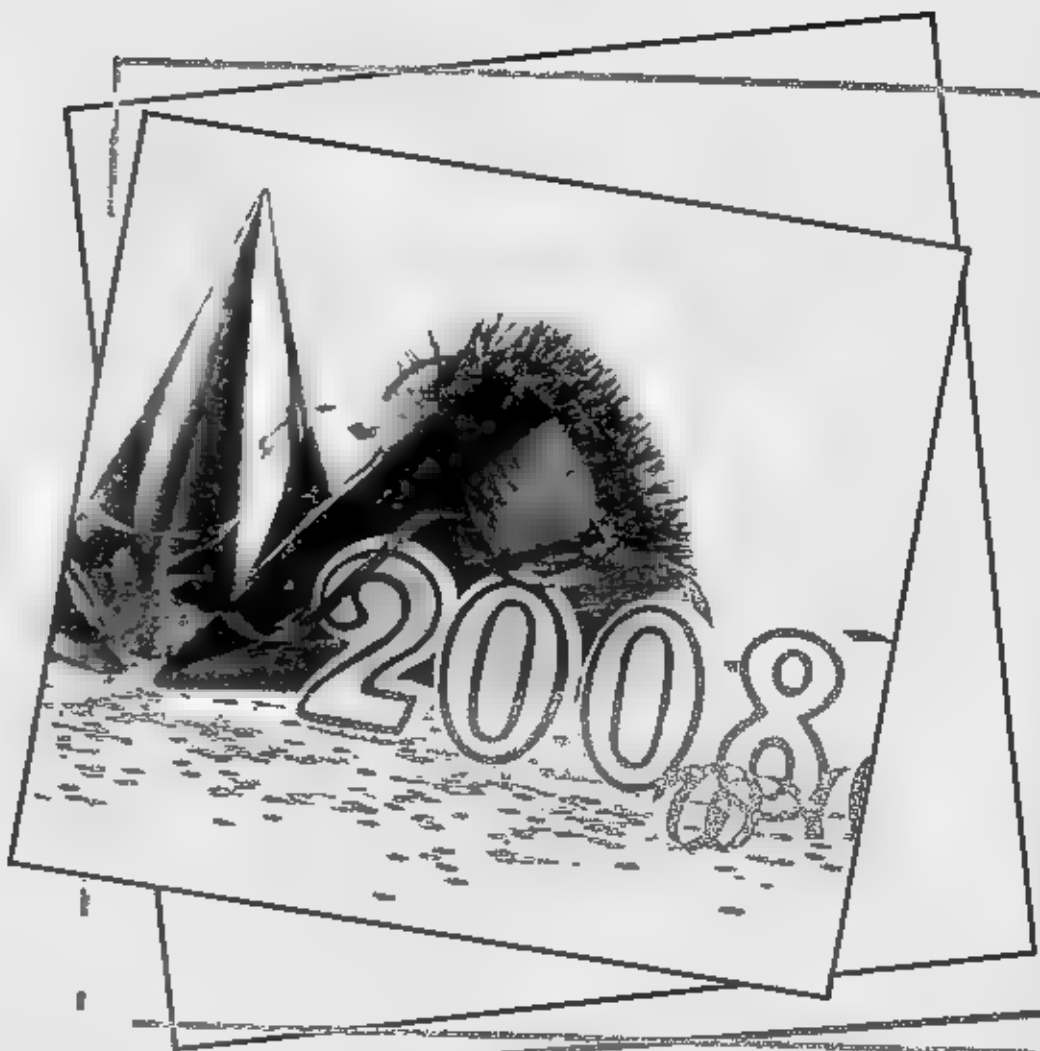
Apply Now! westemployment.com

West Contact Services, Inc. - HR Employment Office
Phone: 784-8600 • Fax 857 7431/32
Email: MakatiJobs@west.com

Two Locations! Accepting applications at the
Exportbank Plaza Office

24/F Exportbank Plaza
Don Chino Rocas cor Sen.
Gi Puyat, Makati

17th & 18th Floors, Robinsons
Cybergate Center, Tower 1
EDSA corner Pioneer Street
Mandaluyong City



The Leading IT Security and Solutions Provider in the Philippines is currently looking for dynamic individuals with strong passion for information technology to join our team of highly qualified individuals.

QUEZON CITY OFFICE

Sales Executives

- Graduate of Sales or Marketing, Management from reputable school
- Male/Female with strong sales background
- Outstanding Communication skills and negotiation skills

Sales Managers

- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/College Degree in Business Studies/Administration/Management or equivalent from a reputable school
- Outstanding Communication skills
- Should have outstanding business writing and selling skills

Analyst/Programmer

- Graduate of Computer Science, Information Technology or its equivalent from a reputable school
- Advance knowledge in systems analysis and design
- Advance knowledge in Visual Basic 6, PHP, ASP, Java, HTML, XML, CSS, Crystal Report, MySQL, SQL, MS ACCESS
- Willing to work extended hours

MANILA OFFICE

Product Managers

- Graduate of Business/ Marketing or equivalent. Related Professional Training, Certification or Membership in Marketing Planning & Management.
- Strong market research skills
- Male/Female with strong PR and events management skills
- Excellent Strategic skills (exploration, development, implementation and monitoring)

Marketing Manager

- Graduate of Business/ Marketing or equivalent. Related Professional Training, Certification or Membership in Marketing Planning & Management.
- Male/Female
- Excellent Leadership skills
- Excellent Strategic skills (exploration, development, implementation and monitoring)
- Outstanding Marketing Management (Products, Brand, Communication, Pricing, Distribution etc.)
- Outstanding People Management ability
- Outstanding Negotiation skills

Channel Managers

- Graduate of Business/ Marketing or equivalent. Related Professional Training, Certification or Membership in Marketing Planning & Management
- Male/Female with strong PR and communication skills
- Must be willing to work with minimal supervision
- Must handle retail or corporate partner
- Background in IT is a must, preferably with experience in IT Distribution

Interested applicants may apply personally in our office
Valueline Systems and Solutions Corporation
2nd Fl., J&L Bldg., #23 Matalino St., Central District Duman, Quezon City
Tel. No. 825-2938; 925-2223
Unit 805 B/F Cityland Herrera Tower #28 V.A. Rufino cor Valero St.
Salcedo Village, Makati City Tel. No. 845-0584
or email resume at hr@valueline.com.ph

ALPHASOFT SERVICES CORPORATION

IT JOBS IN THE U.S.I

AlphaSoft Services Corporation (part of \$3 billion Teledata Group) is headquartered in Princeton NJ with other operating locations in Naperville, IL, Walnut Creek, CA and Dallas, TX. It is a leading software integration and consulting company focusing on Enterprise Solutions, CRM, E-Business, BI and Data-warehousing market segments. AlphaSoft (www.alphasoftservices.com) is now hiring highly skilled IT consultants with technical expertise in any of the following:

- **SAP** -Functional & Technical (any module)
- **Oracle ERP Applications** - Functional & Technical (any module)
- **Data Warehousing and Business Intelligence Tools**
- **Java** (Architects and Senior Developers)
- **.NET** (Architects and Senior Developers)
- **IBM Middleware**
 - WebSphere Enterprise Service Business/ Process Server/ Partner Gateway/Business Modeller
 - TIM and TAM (Two products)
 - Tivoli Monitoring Systems
 - DB2 version 9
- **Other Technologies:**
 - Agile PLM
 - Wind Chill
 - Matrix 1

You must be a graduate of Engineering, Computer Science or Business Administration and with a minimum of three years relevant experience in reputable IT companies. Good communication skills is a must.

An attractive compensation & benefits will be offered to successful candidates, which include comprehensive Health Insurance, 401K participation, US Immigration Sponsorship, Life and Accident Insurance and paid vacations.

Interested applicants may send their resume to: Evangelina Castillo evan@alphasoftservices.com or mail to: P.O. Box 1300, MCPO Makati City Philippines 1253.

The Management Systems International (MSI) project with offices in Salcedo Village, Makati City, is looking for

ADJUDICATION SPECIALISTS

To design and carry out a training series for adjudicators of administrative cases in relation to corruption for 50 days spread over January to June 2008. Applicants must have at least 5 years litigation experience, preferably in the areas of administrative law and criminal law. Retired government adjudicators and law faculty are desirable but not required. Specifically the

- Conduct a pre-training needs assessment
- Design the training program
- Prepare and carry out lectures and workshops in Metro Manila, Cebu and Davao

LEGAL WRITERS

To conceptualize and develop an enforcement manual featuring quick-reference on procedures and substantive law discussions. Applicants must have the following:

- 5-10 years litigation experience
- Experience in writing legal manuals or similar

PROJECT MANAGER

To assist in the selection of service providers and oversee implementation of construction works for office expansion and refurbishment. Applicants must have at least 5-10 years experience in architectural, construction and/or engineering project management, for the following tasks:

- Assist in identifying a construction sub-
- Contribute to the drafting of architectural designs of the office spaces
- Oversee and monitor the actual renovation and office expansion

Interested applicants must submit their CVs with cover letter on or before 5PM of 4 January 2008 at apontoy@msi-mca.com or Rm. 2302, 23/F 88 Corporate Center, 141 Sedena cor Valero Sts., Salcedo Village, Makati City 1227 Tel. No. 887-7412, 887-7467 to 69.

JOB OPENING!!!

Langogan Power Corporation

Unit 903 Page 1 Bldg. 1215 Acacia Ave. Madrigal Business Park, Ayala Alabang 1780 Muntinlupa City
Tel/Fax: (02) 809 0583

Admin Manager

- Attractive
- Has abilities to get things done
- Organized
- Used to or willing to work with westerners
- Amenable to Western time approach
- Resourceful and determined
- Degree in business administration (or equivalent)

Send resume to: jmonteagudo@langoganpower.com



Total Point Of Sales (POS) SYSTEM PROVIDER

IMMEDIATE HIRING:

PROJECT COORDINATOR

- ◆ Male, Female, 22-30 years old; with pleasing personality
- ◆ A graduate of either Computer Science, Computer Engineering, Industrial Engineering or Business Management courses
- ◆ Must be able to create and execute Strategic Project Planning and Project Implementation.
- ◆ Background in Software and Hardware Products Improvement and Protocols is an advantage.
- ◆ Can perform Documentation: Test Design, Test Plan, Test Scripts and Test Summary Report
- ◆ Highly organized and very analytical
- ◆ Must have an excellent communication and presentation skills
- ◆ Must have a strong Decision-Making and Leadership skills.

Interested applicants may apply personally or may send their resume with recent photo at the E-mail address stated below. Kindly indicate the Position applying for as the Subject.

JIMAC INCORPORATED
HRD DEPARTMENT
Pankhouse 801 TC Plaza Building near
doc Cordova St. Quezon Ave. Quezon City
719 No. 742-68-1253/59-loc 12
Fax No. 742-6634
E-mail Address: jimac@jimac-inc.com
Visit our Website at www.jimac-inc.com

Get more exposure for your ad.
Advertise in JobMarket Libre

Inquire about the JobMarket Libre at 897-8803 loc 514

**JOB
Market**

Step up to a better Career this New Year!

We are looking for:

Operations Managers
Client Services Manager
Implementations/Project Manager
Quality Manager
Financial Analyst
Quality Supervisor (Outbound)
Team Leaders
HR Officer - Recruitment
Training Supervisor
Java Developer
Crystal Report Writer
QA Tester
Systems Architect
Workforce Specialists
Debt and Recovery Specialist
Quality Associates
Front Desk Associates
HR Specialist - Benefits
HR Specialist - Labor Relations
HR Specialists - Recruitment



it's all about the people!

ACCESS
WORLDWIDE

hinge inquirer

PUBLICATIONS

a dynamic company engaged in
the publication of the most
influential niche magazines
today, is in immediate need of:

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES (3)

Qualifications:

- At least College Level, preferably with background in Marketing, Sales or any Business course
- Highly motivated, a team player, with good communication, negotiation and presentation skills, thrives under pressure and can work with minimal supervision
- Applicants must be willing to work in Makati City and do field work
- Preferably has at least 1 year experience in Corporate Sales/Advertising Publication

EDITORIAL ASSISTANTS (4)

Qualifications:

- Graduate of a 4-year Communications course (or related degree) from a reputable school
- Internship or professional background in publishing/media is a plus
- Creative, able to handle multiple tasks in an organized way and meet deadlines
- Able to work under minimal supervision or with a group
- Is computer literate: communication, writing and editing skills is a plus
- Willing to work overtime; confident and industrious

CIRCULATION MANAGER (1)

Qualifications:

- College Graduate, Major in Management, Economics or Marketing
- Preferably with at least five (5) years experience in Circulation with three (3) years managerial experience
- Knowledgeable in product, price, distribution and promotion strategies
- Proficiency in basic computer operations (Word, Excel, Powerpoint)
- Excellent communication, presentation, writing, interpersonal, analytical, planning, and organizing skills

GRAPHIC ARTISTS (3)

Qualifications:

- College graduate of a computer and/or designing course. Preferably with publication layout background
- Exceptional designing skills
- Organized, resourceful, creative
- Willing to work overtime and thrives under pressure

COPY EDITOR (1)

Qualifications:

- Conducts interviews and writes features, blurbs and captions
- Corrects errors and ensures consistency in spelling, word use, grammar, hyphenation, capitalization and punctuation
- Corrects inappropriate figures of speech and ambiguous statements, and eliminates wordiness, and moves/recasts sentences for readability
- Distributes assignments to writers and photographers
- Able to work under minimal supervision or with a group
- Professional background in publishing/media a plus
- Fulfills other tasks assigned by the Editor in Chief or Editorial Manager

Interested applicants may send their resumes to any of the ff:
spenillo@inquirer.com.ph, jroyes@inquirepublications.ph,
hr@hip.ph or bring their resumes, two (2) x2 photos, Transcript
of Records, and copy Valid I.D. at Unit 338, Mile Long Building,
Amarco corner Javier Street, Makati City,
from Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Tel. Nos.: 759-2284, 759-2624, 848-8186, 813-6646

Opportunity. Advantage. Success.

Practice Nursing in the USA.

Ensure success by taking the CGFNS Qualifying Exam.

- The CGFNS Qualifying Exam, the best predictor for passing NCLEX®, continues to be offered in the Philippines.
- The CGFNS Qualifying Exam is the best preparation for NCLEX® worldwide.
- Nurses who have been certified by CGFNS are the most highly recruited candidates for practice in the USA.

SIGN UP NOW

for the CGFNS
Certification
Program and
take the CGFNS
Qualifying Exam
in 2008.

CGFNS
INTERNATIONAL



For more information visit us at www.cgfns.org/philippines

JobMarket Libre

You can now checkout more jobs
from JobMarket Libre everyday!



INQUIRER PUBLICATIONS is looking for dynamic Sales Individuals for the following areas:

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE (Makati Office)

- 1-2 years experience in direct sales or advertising (sales experience in newspaper publishing or any related publishing business is an advantage)
- Very good prospecting, presentation and communication skills
- Likes to think out-of-the-box solutions and new ideas
- Excellent customer relations skills
- Passionate about selling
- Has a working knowledge of word processing tools such as Word, Excel and Powerpoint
- Must be a resident of Metro Manila

SALES CONSULTANTS (Central Luzon, North Luzon, South Luzon and Davao)

- Must be a resident of Central Luzon (Pampanga or Tarlac), North Luzon (Dagupan or Baguio), South Luzon (Laguna or Batangas) and Davao City.
- Familiar with and has a good network of contacts in the local government units and private businesses in the region
- 1-2 years experience in Sales
- Keen interest in selling newspaper advertising ads and supplements
- Likes to think out-of-the-box solutions and new ideas
- Excellent customer relations skills
- Passionate about selling

Send your application (with photo) NOW to the

The Human Resources (c/o IPI)

PDI Building
Pasong Tamo corner Yague and Mascardo Sts.
Makati City 1200

or email to: jreyes@inquirerpublications.ph; spanilio@inquirer.com.ph;
tramirez@inquirerpublications.ph

PROGRAMMER

- Knowledge in Web Design and Programming
- ASP or other web programming language
- Knowledge in Database Programming (Access, MySQL, MSSQL)
- Knowledge in Networking and Computer Setup

TELEMARKETER

- Female not more than 30 years old
- College Graduate
- Willing to work in Antipolo City

Tel. No. 682-7168/70

E-mail resumé: apply@bmexpress.com

URGENTLY NEEDED!

ADMIN. ASSISTANT

- M/F, graduate of any 4-year course
- Computer literate

Submit application with I.D. picture to:
TSB Enterprises, Inc.

Brgy. Pasong Tamo, Tandang Sora, Q.C.

Tel. no. 931-5466 or 932-8066

tsbenterprises@pacific.net.ph

Workers on piecework basis entitled to 13th month pay

THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND Employment (Dole) said that workers paid on piecework basis along with all the other rank and file employees are entitled to the 13th month pay.

Labor and Employment Secretary Arturo D. Brion said Presidential Decree 851 mandates all employers to pay their rank and file workers the 13th month pay regardless of the nature the workers' jobs and irrespective of the methods by which their wages are paid provided they worked for at least one month during a calendar year.

Brion said the law entitles all full time rank and file workers, as well as those who are paid on piecework basis, or a fixed or guaranteed wage plus commission, to receive the 13th month pay.

Workers paid on piece-rate basis are those who are paid a standard amount for every piece or unit of work produced that is more or less regularly replicated without regard to the time spent in producing each piece or unit.

He added that employees working part-time in two or more firms are also entitled to the 13th month pay from each of their employers.

He said that the 13th month pay

should not be less than one-twelfth (1/12) of the total basic salary earned by an employee in a calendar year whether he or she is paid on a full time, part-time, or piecework basis, or paid with fixed salary plus commission.

He also said that the benefit should be paid not later than Dec. 24 of every year. An employer, however, may give his or her employees one-half of the 13th month pay before the opening of the regular school year and the remaining half on or before Dec. 24 of every year.

Exempted from the 13th month pay are workers who are paid on pure commission, boundary task basis or pakyaw or those who are paid a fixed amount for performing specific work. Househelpers and persons in the personal service of an employer are also not entitled to the 13th month pay.

Brion said giving 13th month pay to these workers depends upon the discretion of employers. He, nonetheless, enjoined employers of Kasambahays and those who provide them personal services to give these workers the 13th month benefit.

"These workers deserve benefits as they perform domestic chores and attend to the needs of our families at home thereby allowing us to attend to our jobs and businesses," Brion said.

CONVERGYS

Outthinking & Outgrowing

The search is on for
the TOP talents in Bacolod.

DO YOU STAND OUT?

BUILD
YOUR FUTURE
with US

**Technical Customer
Service Associates**

Temporary Recruitment Site:

Circle Inn Hotel,
Lopez Jaena - Malaspina Streets,
Capitol Shopping Center,
Bacolod City

034-4351710

034-4351729

034-4351710

The country's widely read and circulated newspaper is in need of:



ACCOUNTING GRADUATES

- With at least 6 months to 1 year experience in General Accounting and/or Credit & Collection work
- Knowledge of basic computer operations
- Can work under pressure and with minimal supervision

GRAPHIC DESIGNER

- College graduate preferably Fine Arts
- 2 years experience as Graphic Designer
- 1 year experience in publishing
- Knowledge in Photoshop, PageMaker, Corel Draw
- Skilled in manual and computer based illustration, Page Design

REPORTER - DAY DESK

- College graduate preferably major in Journalism or Mass Communication
- Knowledge in basic computer operations
- Skills in Communication, Interviewing, Research & Writing
- Good interpersonal skills
- Must have at least 1 year experience in news reporting

NETWORK / SYSTEMS ENGINEER

- College graduate preferably Computer Engineering or ECE
- 1-2 years experience on this job or similar
- Familiar with Concepts in Computer Networking
- Experience in email & Internet Administration and Unix, Windows 2000 or 2003 Server Administration and Development, Citrix Administration, TOP/HP Network
- Database knowledge is a plus

COMPUTER ENGINEER

- Graduate of Computer Engineering / ECE
- 6 months to 1 year experience on this job
- Knowledge of computer operations system like Windows XP and Windows 2000; MAC OS X, desktop applications like MS Office, Open Office, Email client, Adobe Products
- Troubleshooting skills, Interpersonal skills, Communication Skills
- Knowledge in network

SYSTEMS ANALYST / PROGRAMMER

- College Graduate preferably Computer Science or Computer Engineering with business background
- Background in Computer hardware
- With teaching experience
- 1 to 2 years in this job or jobs leading to it
- Knowledge in Visual Basic or Powerbuilder, VB Scripting, Perl Scripting, Web Programming, MS SQL 2000 or Sybase SQL or other relational database, Management System

MARKETING SERVICES COORDINATOR

- College graduate with background in Marketing & Finance
- Knowledge in basic computer operations
- Willing to be relocated in the Visayas Area
- Good Communication & Interpersonal Skills
- Must have at least 1 year experience in similar job or jobs leading to it

MARKETING SERVICES COORDINATOR

- Graduate of Marketing or Mass Communication
- At least 1 year experience in this job or jobs leading to it
- With background in conceptualization and layouting of print ads, brochures, etc.
- Excellent Planning, Organizing & Project Management Skills

Send your application letter and comprehensive resumé to:

THE HR MANAGEMENT SERVICES HEAD
Philippine Daily Inquirer, Inc.
Chino Roces Avenue (formerly Pasong Tamo)
Corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City
E-mail: recruitment@inquirer.com.ph



PAYROLL STAFF

- College graduate (any business course)
- With 3 years experience in similar field
- knowledge of payroll system, SSS, BIR and other government regulations
- knowledge of Corporate Taxation Law and basic labor laws
- experience in bank payroll transactions
- Mathematical ability and analytical skills
- basic computer operations

Send your application (with photo) NOW to the:

The Human Resources (c/o IPI)

PDI Building
Pasong Tamo corner Yague and Mascardo Sts.
Makati City 1200

or email to: jreyes@inquirerpublications.ph;
spanilio@inquirer.com.ph

THE POWER TO START AN EXCEPTIONAL CAREER IS YOURS!

MANILA

Recruitment Associates
Recruitment Specialists
Recruitment Officers
Recruitment Supervisor
Recruitment Manager
Accent & Comm. Trainer
Customer Service Representative
Coach
Team Leader
DIET Trainer
Training Designer
Database Administrator
HR Associate
Company Nurse
Financial Planning Analyst
Systems Accountant
Internal Auditor
HR Supervisor - Ops Support

CEBU

Recruitment Associates
Recruitment Specialists
Recruitment Officers
Recruitment Supervisor
Recruitment Manager
Accent & Comm. Trainer
Customer Service Representative
Account Specialist
Operations Supervisor
PST Trainer
Recruitment Manager
Training Supervisor
Level 2 Diet Trainer
Database Administrator
Customer Service Agent
Project Support Specialist
Human Resource Manager
Programmer

Please visit our website
www.beXceptional.com

7F BPI Buendia Center, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave.
Makati City

✉ manilacareers@eperformax.com

Subject: Manila (Position applying for)

✉ TextConnect: Type ePerformax<space>Name

<space>Position applying for<space>MB

and send to 0917-8902627

☎ 490-2688

Xpress: Career Café, Ground Floor JY Square Mall

Solas Drive, Lungsod, Cebu City

✉ cebucares@eperformax.com

Subject: Cebu (Name) (Position applying for)

✉ TextConnect: Type ePerformax<space>Name

<space>Cebu<space>Position applying for

and send to 0917-8902627

☎ 411-9700

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

From all of us at

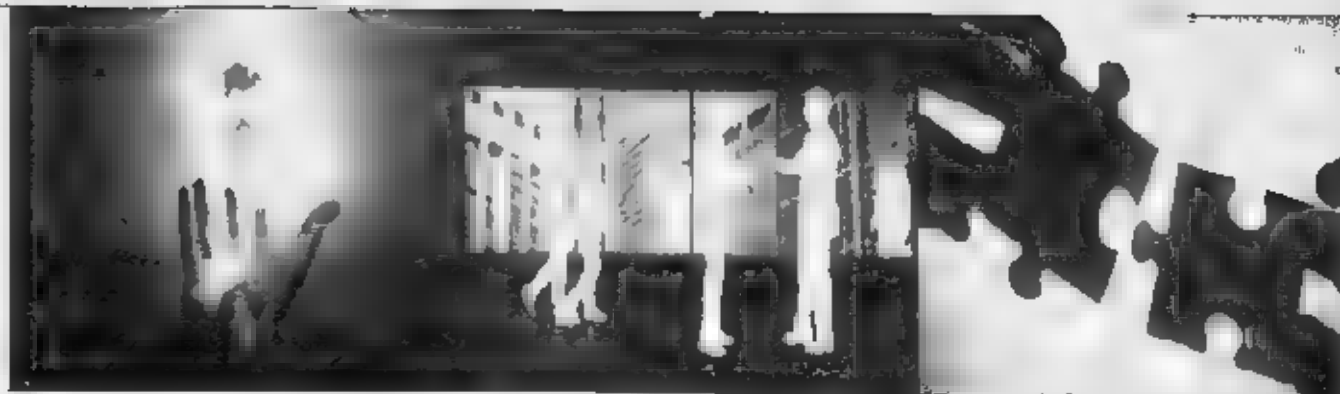
ePERFORMAX

CONTACT CENTERS

Xtreme Quality. Xceptional Performance. Xtraordinary Results.

linksolutions

It's not just a place to work.
It's a place to build a long-term career.



Our Goal is to be the SERVICE PROVIDER OF CHOICE for organizations looking to leverage the HIGHLY SKILLED and CUSTOMER CENTRIC Workforce of the Philippines. We have opened our first service delivery center in the Makati City and are looking for professionals to help us build our presence in the Philippines.

OPERATIONS MANAGER (1)

- At least 2 Years management experience in either Inbound or Outbound Center.
- Multiple account management is an advantage
- College Degree is required
- Must possess excellent English and Communication Skills
- A strong understanding of US culture and business practices is expected
- Can do and Will Do attitude a must

CALL CENTER SUPERVISOR (5)

- At Least 6 months experience as a Team Leader or Supervisor is required
- Strong oral and written English skills are expected
- Knowledge of call center analytics
- College Degree or Commensurate Experience is required
- Financial, Banking, Credit Card and Sales experience is a plus

QUALITY DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATE (5)

- Strong English communications skills, oral and written skills is required
- College Degree or Commensurate Experience is required
- At least 6 months experience in similar capacity required
- Expert knowledge in quality, sales and customer service process

CALL CENTER REPRESENTATIVE (100)

- Strong English communication skills, oral and written skills is required
- College Degree or Commensurate Experience is required
- Customer Service or Sales Experience an Advantage
- Credit card acquisition experience of at least 3 months is a plus
- INBOUND and OUTBOUND: Banking/ Financial campaign background (Customer Service, Sales, Credit Card acquisition and/or Loans, Balance Transfers, and Collection)

COMMUNICATIONS AND PRODUCT TRAINER (2)

- Strong English communications skills, oral and written skills is required
- College Degree or Commensurate Experience expected
- At least 1 Year experience in similar field required

HR RECRUITMENT OFFICER (2)

- Strong English communications skills, oral and written skills is required
- College Degree required
- At least 1 year in a supervisory capacity an advantage
- HRIS, Benefits Management, Employee Relations experience is a plus
- Proactive self starters needed

OTHER POSITIONS:

- REPORT WRITERS
- ELECTRO-MECHANICAL TECHNICIAN
- MEDICAL TRANSCRIPTIONISTS
- CLIENT SERVICES OFFICER
- SALES VERIFIER

Our office is located at:
3rd Floor, Goodland-Smartnet Building,
377 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue,
Makati City

Contact Information

TEL: 793.LINK (5465)
Fax: 793.5444
URL: www.linkbpo.com
E-Mail: recruitment@linkbpo.com

APPLICANTS CAN GO TO OUR CENTER FOR ON THE SPOT INTERVIEWS FROM 9 AM TILL MIDNIGHT MONDAYS THRU FRIDAYS. WE ARE ON SEN. GIL PUYAT AVE. (BUENDIA) BETWEEN PASEO DE ROXAS AVENUE AND MAKATI AVENUE (IN FRONT OF METRO BANK HEAD OFFICE).

Bayer CropScience



Our Sales and Marketing Group is in need of:

Area Sales Coordinators (Luzon and VisMin)

All applicants should have the following qualifications:

Education:
BS Agriculture, Agricultural Business Management Graduate or Any Related Courses.

Experience:
Minimum of 3-5 Years Experience in Sales and Collection in Crop Protection Industry
At Least 3 Years Experience in Retailers and Distributions Management

Skills:
Excellent Oral and Written Communication.
Very Good Negotiating Ability
Self-Motivated and Can Work Well With Minimum Supervision
Team Player and Can Relate Well with All Levels in the Sales Team
Customer-Service Oriented, With Good Analytical Skills

Other Qualifications:

Male, 25-35 years old
Computer Literate, Proficient in Windows Applications, Knows How to Drive

ONLY QUALIFIED CANDIDATES are requested to email their resume with pictures at cristina.malabanan@bayercropscience.com or send it to Human Resource Department, 3F Bayer House, Canlubang Industrial Estate, and Calamba City not later than January 4, 2008.

A reputable company based in the United Arab Emirates is looking for dynamic professionals to fill the below vacancies:

Field Service ELECTRICIAN / MECHANIC
for Electric Power Diesel Generator Sets with the following qualifications:

- Diploma in Electrical / Mechanical Engineering or equivalent
- Minimum 3-5 years experience in the field service of the Diesel generator Sets in one of the reputable Dealers (e.g. Caterpillar dealer, Cummins dealer, Perkins dealer, MTU dealer, SDMO Agent) is a must.
- Wide Knowledge in Troubleshooting, Diagnosis, Repair and quote of Electrical power & control Systems of the power gensets & engines with electronically controlled fuel Injection system & synchronizing panels
- Good command of English language
- Good Computer skills, knowledge (ET, Software)
- Have valid driving license.

The qualified candidates only can send their C.V. with recent photograph to e-mail: alam@ekm.ae

TRI-ISYS TOTAL INTERNET SOLUTIONS JOB OPENING

10th fl. AIC Center Escorial St. Binondo, Manila
Tel. Nos: 2308777 loc 402 or 404

Junior/Senior Account Executives (Corp. Sales)

- Male/Female: preferably 23-30 years old
- Graduate of any 4 year Business course preferably major in Marketing, Management, Computer Science
- Should be enthusiastic, self-driven, independent with pleasing personality and can relate well with people of all levels
- Must have established network among former clientele especially in the field of IT, Tel cos. & the like
- Experience in Sales is an advantage

Interested applicants may apply personally @ the above address from Mondays to Fridays, 9:00 am to 3pm, or may e-mail your application to career@tri.ph

Start the year right with a SURE JOB! CALL CENTER TRAINING PROGRAM

100% GUARANTEED JOB
Assistance to our Call Center Partners

NOW HIRING 1,000 agents!

ENROLL NOW!
P500
Intensive 60 hours
with 1 REV. A Job CO & Training's AOL
employment accepted

CALL US NOW!!!
448-5024 / 411-2944

Quezon City
Makati
Pasig

AAA GLOBAL MANPOWER CORP Formerly Anjubei Recruitment International Corp POEA-025-LB-019305-UL

NO NUMBER FOR THE EMPLOYMENT

ASMC-USA www.asmc.com is seeking experienced acute nurses for hospitals with locations in Texas. These hospitals offer competitive salaries and exceptional employee benefits. Located in a very affordable community and a great place to raise a family

FOR MANPOWER POOLING ONLY: NO FEES TO BE COLLECTED

Send resume to: Panshouse D Valero Tower, #122 Valero St., Salcedo Village, Makati City Tel. Nos. 7505723-24; 894-9586; Fax: 7505746

aaaglobalmanpower@yahoo.com

BEWARE OF ILLEGAL RECRUITERS!!!

URGENT!!! PASTRY CHEF

Interested Applicants may call and send their comprehensive resume with 2x2 colored picture to:

Greg Pascual at
greg@tblkari.ae
0927-8244529 / 046-4386958

NOW HIRING!

anjo's hairdressing Salon Technicians
Qualifications:
Male or Female, not more than 30 years old, with good communication skills, neat, clean, and well-groomed.
At least High School graduate
Interested applicants may send their resume to:
anjoshairdressing@yahoo.com
(look for Enzo)

EVA AIRWAYS CORPORATION

Is in immediate need of

Reservation & Airport Staff

Qualifications:

- Under 26 years old
- College graduate
- Preferably with experience
- Fluent in English, Mandarin speaking an advantage
- Excellent interpersonal skills with people from all levels of management
- With pleasing personality, independent and responsible
- Knowledgeable in Microsoft Word, Excel and Powerpoint
- Resides in Manila, Makati, Alabang, Parañaque, Las Piñas and Quezon City

Please send your resume on or before Jan. 7, 2008 to:

Personnel Department
EVA AIRWAYS CORPORATION
23rd Floor, LKG Tower
6801 Ayala Ave., Makati City

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

Accountant/Auditor

minimum 6 years in auditing experience
CPA, computer literate

Communication Trainers (full/part-time)

at least 6 months experience in a call center training experience an advantage

college graduate, M/F 22-32 yo

Front Office Staff

college graduates, M/F 20-28 yo

selected center experience an advantage

fresh graduates may apply

Outbound Agent

at least 6 months experience in a call center telemarketing experience an advantage

fresh graduates may apply

Human Resources Generalist

at least 6 months experience in HR and recruitment of call center agents

psychology graduate preferably female

HRM Instructor (Housekeeping/Service)

HRM graduate with at least one year experience in housekeeping or service computer literate

Please email your comprehensive resume to eva.recruitment@eva.com

JOE LEBO

Get more exposure for your ad.

Advertise in JobMarket Libre

Inquire at 897-8808 loc 514

WISDOM MANPOWER SERVICES INC.

URGENT HIRING

ACCT. CLERK/ACCT. EXECUTIVE/BOOKKEEPER/STORE MGR/SHIRT MGR/GRAPHIC ARTIST/CIVIL ENGINEER/SALES ASSISTANT/PURCHASING OFFICER/MARKETING OFFICER/SECRETARY/TECHNICIAN/ENGINEER/FRONTEND/SALES/BAKER/CASHIER/BAKERS ASSISTANTS/GENUINE GRM/CARE AND BEAR DECORATORS

(MALE 18-30 yrs. old, 5'8" in height)
(FEMALE 18-30 yrs. old, 5'2" in height)
(High School/College Level/College Grad)
any business related course

All interested applicant may apply in person at:
Rm. 205-206 AUGUSTO BLDG. RIZAL AVENUE EXT. CALOOCAN CITY (BETWEEN 8th-10th AVE)
TEL. NOS. 369-8620/366-7768/09192064575
LOOK FOR: MS. JOSIE/RODELYN/MR. ROLDAN

Where you find the best.



VISIT US AT
www.jobmarketonline.com



Philippine Efficient Lighting Market Transformation Program

The PELMAT Project funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and implemented by the Department of Energy (DOE) is in search of qualified candidates for the post of **Finance Officer (FO), Information Technology Specialist (IT), and Driver/Messenger (DM)**, to be based at the DOE Office in Taguig City. The PELMATP is intended to address the barriers to widespread utilization of energy efficient lighting (EEL) systems in the Philippines.

1. Finance Officer Initial duration of employment is one (1) year, but may be extended based on performance. The Finance Officer shall be responsible for the accurate and appropriate recording of disbursements of Project funds; maintaining the set of books required according to UNDP accounting procedures; classifying and summarizing financial transactions of the project and the generation of required financial reports. He/she will also be responsible in updating all other books of accounts such as subsidiary ledgers and special registers. Specifically, he/she will be responsible for the following tasks:

- Installation and implementation of a GEF financial system that records transactions that utilize GEF Funds in accordance with UNDP's existing guidelines on national execution;
- Orientation of staff on the use of the project's financial systems and procedures;
- Proper recording of financial transactions and submit a regular report on the project's financial status;
- Certifying correctness of journals, vouchers, bills, statement of accounts, trial balance, budget estimates and other financial statement and records;
- Preparation of certification of the availability of funds and/or allotment of expenses, vouchers and requisition for supplies, materials, etc.;
- Preparation of annual and quarterly budgets including the necessary budget revisions based on the corresponding line-item budgets approved by DOE
- Establishment of a project account and ensure appropriateness and proper record keeping of transactions;
- Supervision of the preparation of payroll and general voucher of salaries, and other documentary requirements for disbursements;
- Preparation of updated reports on disbursements made by the project, and advise the Project Team on the overall financial status of the project;
- Preparation of a system of accounts that records all the in-cash and in-kind contributions of co-financing entities to the Project.
- Provide technical inputs in the implementation of the various financing mechanisms that will be developed under the PELMATP

Qualification and Experience

- Holds at least a Bachelors Degree in accounting, finance, commerce or related field preferably with postgraduate degree in the same or any other relevant field;
- Knowledge of and practical/relevant experience in accounting, budgeting, book keeping and with at least 2 years related work experience. Knowledge of UNDP accounting procedures is an advantage;
- Working knowledge of database, word processing and spreadsheet applications, as well as experience with accounting software
- Good writing and oral communication skills;
- High level of attention to details in all aspects of work responsibilities;
- Ability to follow and comply with reporting procedures;
- Strong interpersonal skills and ability to coordinate with multiple stakeholders; and
- Good organizational and time management skills;
- However, fresh graduates from reputable schools with outstanding scholastic records are encouraged to apply

2. Information Technology Specialist Initial duration of employment is one (1) year but may be extended based on performance

The **PMO IT Specialist** shall be responsible for the management and maintenance of Project's database system and website. He or she will coordinate logistics, monitoring the conduct of the activities according to specified/agreed timetable and provide recommendations to better the collection of information/data/reports from PELMATP activities. Specifically, he/she will be responsible to undertake the following tasks:

- Design and maintain the Project Work Plan and Budget (Project Information Management) software;
- Coordinates data management and collection of project information from different PELMATP activities;
- Manages and maintains PELMATP database and website and orient staff on their use;
- Reports regularly to the Project Manager on the status of project activities vis-a-vis target outputs;
- Provides administrative and technical inputs in the preparation of project reports; and
- Assist in the design of information, education and communication materials for Component 3-EEL Application Consumer Awareness Program of PELMATP

Qualification and Experience

- Bachelors Degree in information technology, computer management or computer engineering from a reputable school;
- Minimum 1 year experience in information technology and/or computer systems and software management, preferably with good knowledge of LINUX, MICROSOFT and other Project Management/Information Systems software;
- Excellent English communication skills, both written and verbal;
- With satisfactory skills on the use of office software packages such as MS Word, Excel and Power Point.

3. Driver/Messenger (DM) Initial duration of employment is one (1) year, but may be extended based on performance

The Messenger/Driver for PELMATP shall have the following responsibilities:

- Delivers various project documents and materials to different organizations and offices;
- Transports Project officials and personnel, workshop participants, and meeting representatives in various activities of PELMATP;
- Extends support services during official functions like meetings, conferences, workshops, etc., and;
- Arranges and monitors regular vehicle repair/maintenance jobs.

Qualification and Experience

- Has a valid professional driver's license and well-versed with traffic rules and regulations;
- Has at least five (5) years experience;
- Familiar with road routes in Metro Manila;
- Experience and working knowledge in the troubleshooting and basic/minor repair of vehicles;
- Good interpersonal skills and can read and speak English well enough to talk to the foreign experts, understand road signs and prepare reports and records;
- Can pass the physical examination;
- Road courteous;
- By reason of experience, training or both, safely operate the vehicle;
- NBI Clearance & Barangay Clearance and
- 2 references from most recent employers.

All application letters and comprehensive resumes should reach our office on or before January 11, 2008. Address applications to the PELMATP Project, Human Resource Department, Department of Energy, Energy Center, Merit Road, Taguig, Metro Manila. This advertisement shall remain posted in www.doe.gov.ph until January 11, 2008.



The project, "National Assessment on the State of Disaster Risk Management in the Philippines," funded by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and implemented by the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) is in search of a **Disaster Risk Management Operations Specialist**.

The project will review all related literature and relevant documentation on disaster risk management (DRM) / disaster management (DM) over the past 10 years (1997 - 2007) focusing on the disasters' major impacts and lessons learned, as well as, good practices as a result of the disaster occurrence. The baseline assessment of the DRM issues in the Philippines and the lessons learned will be the major inputs in the formulation of the comprehensive DRM Framework. The project will run for only 11 months.

Disaster Risk Management Operations Specialist (6 months spread over 9 months)

Responsibilities:

- Lead the design of the required consultations and workshops, to include the following: (1) preparing the agenda; (2) identifying the resource persons and allocating specific responsibilities; and (3) dealing with workshop logistics;
- Lead the organization of workshops, including: (1) identification of facilities and ensuring their appropriateness; (2) ensure that all participants are invited in a timely manner; and (3) encourage active participation during workshops;
- Facilitate the workshops, including: (1) ensuring each session is implemented in an appropriate manner, including availability of chairs, persons, note takers, etc.; (2) facilitating the plenary sessions; (3) overseeing the working group sessions; and (4) collecting workshop outputs and helping synthesize the findings;
- Prepare workshop proceedings, containing the major findings; and
- Contribute inputs to the team leader for the necessary report preparation.

All application letters, comprehensive resumes and P11 form should reach our office on or before 09 January 2008. Address applications to the Development Support Services Center, United Nations Development Programme, 30th Floor, Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Avenue corner Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City, tel. # 901 0272.

Applicants are requested to complete the UN Personal History Form (P 11), available in the UNDP website www.undp.org.ph/jobs

This advertisement shall remain posted in www.undp.org.ph until 09 January, 2008.

We are all about
people supporting people.
It's what we do.

MANAGEMENT AND PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR EXPANSION AND GROWTH

For positions listed below, kindly email your resume to
philippinecorpjobs@peoplesupport.com
and indicate position in the subject line.

ADMINISTRATION AND FACILITIES

Front Desk Administrator
Safety and Security Associate

BUSINESS PROCESS IMPROVEMENT

Sr. Analyst for Business Process Improvement (Six Sigma Greenbelt)
Sr. Manager for Business Process Improvement (Six Sigma Blackbelt)

FINANCE

Accounting Officer (Tax Compliance)
Financial Analyst
Payroll Specialist
Payroll Supervisor
Revenue Analyst
Risk Management Officer
Systems Analyst (Financial/Accounting Applications)
Treasury Specialist

HUMAN RESOURCES

Compliance Manager
Consulting Manager - Employee Relations (Cebu)
Corporate Recruitment Office
HR Assistant - Recruitment (Baguio)
HR Associate - Organizational Development (Baguio)
HR Officer - Employee Relations (Baguio)
Project Manager
Technical Recruiter (Cebu)

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Business Analyst
Consulting and Implementation Manager
Data Quality Manager
Database Administrator
Desktop Analyst
HR Database Administrator
Manager (Application Development)
Specialist (Baguio)

Makati City

PeopleSupport Center
Ayala cor. Sen. Gil Puyat Avenues
Monday to Friday 9:00am to 5:00pm
Saturday 9:00am to 3:00pm
HR Hotline: (02) 755-2600
manilajobs@peoplesupport.com

Cebu City

PeopleSupport Cebu
e-Office 1, AsiaTown IT Park
Monday to Saturday
9:00am to 5:00pm
HR Hotline: (032) 234-8222
cebu@peoplesupport.com

Baguio City

PeopleSupport Baguio
SM Fiesta Strip Building,
Harrison Road, Baguio City
baguiojobs@peoplesupport.com

Davao City

B-1 Luisa Avenue Square Jacinto Extension
Monday to Saturday, 9:00am to 6:00pm
HR Hotline: (082) 227-9301
davaojobs@peoplesupport.com



PEOPLESUPPORT

WORKING PEOPLE

Tuck on your forehead: inspire your new resolution. Send us 1207 (Close) or 203 (Smart)

CAREER HAPPINESS IN 2008

New Year's resolution for working people

By Roel A. Andag
ContributorTRY HAPPINESS AT WORK AS
a New Year's resolution.

Martin Seligman, one of the founders of positive psychology (psychology that focuses on wellness rather than on illness), explains that happiness has three components: positive emotions, complete engagement, and purpose in life. Based on results of global happiness surveys, this school of thought believes that happiness is not dependent on material trappings. Let us apply Seligman's framework to experience happiness at work starting in 2008.

Positive emotions

What are negative emotions? The major ones are complaining, criticizing, competing and comparing. One is inviting unhappiness if he is engaged in these destructive emotions. In fact, in the case of comparisons, what makes people feel miserable is the Grass is Greener syndrome—the unbearable thought that others are better off than them.

What are positive emotions then? Opposite, they are commending, affirming, cooperating and supporting. A person of courage and maturity accentuates the positive, demonstrates appreciation, works with competitors and

expresses gratitude.

The mind is infinitely powerful. Napoleon Hill's book "Think and Grow Rich" is an authoritative reference on positive thinking. As Hill says, "thoughts are things." Happiness is first a creation of the mind that the body consequently articulates. Stop a negative thought as soon as it occurs. Do not allow negativity to dominate your work life.

Creating and maintaining positive disposition is vital to productivity. A cheerful worker radiates an energy that uplifts others. Tasks become lighter as well.

Complete engagement

Have you tried focusing on your job such that you get completely absorbed in it? This state of being is otherwise called peak performance. It demands presence or "being there," meaning that your mind, body and heart are synchronically attuned to the activity.

Take for example the mundane act of eating. Our taste buds become more receptive when we focus on the food. We are able to authentically appreciate the meal and stay fuller longer. Those who read, talk, watch television or surf the Internet while eating diminish the health benefits of the food.

It would be to our advantage



ILLUSTRATION BY RED Q. SEGOVIA

if we are able to rally all our senses to the demands of the occasion. Barring distractions, work becomes easier and enjoyable.

What we focus on is equally important. Let us expend our energies on insignificant concerns, let us revisit Stephen Covey's "The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People" where the author distinguishes "urgent" from "important." According to Covey, something that is urgent demands immediate attention and is often more relevant to the achievement of real goals. On the other hand, something that is important requires discernment and contributes to the achievement of

vision, mission and goals. In other words, urgent matters force us to be reactive while important things require us to be proactive.

To sustain peak performance, and therefore happiness at work, stay committed to the things that are important and veer away from those that are merely urgent.

What is your mission in life? Do you have a personal mission statement? A mission statement is your compass as you march along your career path. Covey calls it a personal constitution. A mission statement is life defining.

Having a personal mission statement illustrates self-leadership. With it, you are able to

discern the relevance of your work to your life. It is not enough to have a personal mission statement. It is likewise important to spell out how the mission is to be fulfilled.

Personal mission

Is your mission aligned with that of the company? Many would dismiss this as human resource hokum. One's skills set may be what the company is looking for but dissonance in missions will ultimately result in job dissatisfaction. A proactive professional examines his personal mission and the corporate mission to determine their complementation. Of course, while changing a corporate mission is a major effort, a personal mission should be easy to modify any time to fit emerging developments. Flexibility is a mark of a happy person.

What does a personal mission have to do with happiness? A personal mission serves as the anchor that will keep you steady in a sea of uncertainties. It becomes a source of stability. It gives you meaning.

The advent of a new year provides us with opportunities of renewal and fills us with optimism. Resolving to be happy at work is part of career stewardship. A happy person is a productive person. Here are supplementary reminders:

1. Don't be unfair to yourself by insisting that you'll be happy only when you're done toiling. Be happy right at the moment, right where you are. Be grateful for even the littlest graces, unleash your sense of humor and laugh heartily.

2. Recognize when you are happy. Avoid the tendency of magnifying and verbalizing only unhappiness. Identify the causes of your unhappiness and work on ways how to overcome them. Prioritize unhappiness factors that are within your control. Seek the support of family, friends and colleagues.

3. Acknowledge that you cannot be happy all the time. But with determination, you can be happy most of the time. To avoid disappointment, do not romanticize reality or set impossible standards.

4. Initiate lifestyle changes that will support happiness at work and in life in general. Strive for work-life balance.

5. Have a spring in your step as you wake up to start each workday. It is said that as a race, Filipinos are predisposed to be happy. Use that to your advantage.

Happy New Year!

(The author is an independent training and communication consultant. Feedback at <http://successsystem.blogspot.com>.)

A library could be your gift to your community

By Gloria Damaso-Dumao
Contributor

WHEN ABOUT 20 PERCENT OF the Philippines' 39 million public elementary school children do not know how to read, one of the best gifts one can give to country is to help develop the skill and love of reading.

And what better way to do this than to give the gift of an adequately stocked and user-friendly library?

This has been the mission of Acts of Hope for the Nation (Ahon) Foundation since it started in May 2006. Ahon, a nonprofit organization, is the social arm of Pilway Marketing Inc. which distributes TimeLife books in the Philippines.

To date, the foundation has successfully established nine libraries in public elementary schools in Metro Manila, each stocked with from P600,000 to P800,000 worth of brand new science encyclopedias, almanacs, art and story books, math books and other reference materials all donated by Pilway.

Empowerment, sustainability

But this gift from Pilway has a counterpart—a gift of time, labor, caring and cooperative spirit from each beneficiary school community. It thrives on community empowerment and sustainability while giving to schools in greatest need.

Ahon Foundation was initiated by Hector Tagaysay, president and CEO of Pilway, and a long-time benefactor of scholarship and other educational programs mostly in the Ateneo de Manila University. The driving force behind it though is Harvey Keh, director for youth leadership and social entrepreneurship of the Ateneo de Manila School of Gov-

ernment, and now the executive director of the foundation.

Commitment to service

Many people might still remember Keh as the changemaker at the brink of disaster in 2001 who wrote a widely read entry in his blog in February about seven possible outcomes of the national elections that "will make (him) leave the country."

None of those prognostications materialized so Keh is here to stay and do his own bidding to his countrymen in his blog. Through Ahon, he is working with "leaders who have a good track record for service and who are genuinely committed towards serving our country."

Keh's commitment to service can be traced to his Jesuit education at Xavier School in grade school and high school, and at the Ateneo de Manila where he finished BS Psychology in 2000. Shortly after college, he put up Pathways to Higher Education, an organization that helps public high school students go to college.

Ninth library

His commitment to country extends to his work as instructor in the Ateneo Loyola Schools, project director of the Philippines' 21 Young Leaders Program of Asia Society Philippines and treasurer of Synergia Foundation, an organization that seeks to transform basic education while working closely with local governments, parents and the private sector.

"The reason why there is a lack of quality high school graduates is that the raw materials coming from the elementary schools is not good. Everyone has to be involved in improving basic education in our country or our country will never move forward,"

stresses Keh.

On Dec. 12, Ahon launched its ninth library in Payatas B Annex Elementary School in Payatas, Quezon City. Like other beneficiary schools, Payatas B Annex had to undergo a process that has so far proven effective in achieving the foundation's aims.

User-friendly

According to Keh, the first step is for Ahon to consider the schools recommended by the Department of Education as having the greatest need for a library. Next, they narrow down the selection to needy schools that have "progressive" administrators. When the administrators buy into the idea, they asked to call a multisectoral community meeting for the purpose of getting commitments from members or providing the basics of a user-friendly library: a good size room, an adequate number of chairs and the necessary power, electric fans, and volunteer or paid library staff.

Ahon gives the community one month during which to get their act together and fix up the library before it comes in with the books, library training, reading program and other support activities.

"If there is no counterpart from the community, the community will not take care of the library. They have to realize that education is not the responsibility only of principals but of the whole community," Keh explains.

This community engagement and paradigm shift is taking place in many ways. In Marikina City for example, a highly supportive local government pays for the salary of a member of its pool of volunteers to man one of the foundation's libraries.

In other places, principals have devised a system by which at least one class per week is held inside the Ahon library while teachers are starting to give reading assignments that would require their students to use library materials. Members of parent groups take shifts fixing up and manning the library and sometimes even ask to use the library themselves, Keh reveals.

Eventually, Ahon Foundation intends to reach out to the provinces starting with Nueva Ecija, Pampanga and Buacan, and by the latter part of 2008, to Basilan and Maguindanao, where libraries are really needed.

Book donation project

Another major project of Ahon Foundation is "Isang Milyong Aklat, Isang Milyong Pangarap," a book donation project in partnership with KIDS Foundation, Campaigns and Grey and Pizza Hut.

The drive has already raised 250,000 books and counting. It aims to benefit 500 to 600 public elementary schools throughout the country. For this project, Keh encourages the private sector to donate story books, novels and reference books in good condition but not textbooks and workbooks which are not advisable for reuse, Keh admits. "Ahon may be just a small part in the greater scheme of things. But if we're helping over 20,000 students learn how to read now, then we're making a dent in the advocacy of improving basic education."

(Readers may contact Ahon Foundation through 683 0262 local 109 or visit its website at <http://ahonfoundation.blogspot.com>.)

Gospel: Mt. 2: 13-15, 19-23

When they had departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you."

Work's driving force

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD

THE EXPERIENCE OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND Joseph who were forced to flee to Egypt could give consolation to migrant workers and lessons for any worker. The thought that even God Himself experienced what it is to be a migrant could comfort the workers suffering the pains of loneliness, separation from loved ones, discrimination by the host societies, or those others who may be unjustly exploited by employers or may be physically or psychologically maltreated by others. While reflecting deeper on why the Holy Family had to migrate, one could understand and what should be the most important driving force for one to work anywhere, here or abroad.

While here were human situations that compelled Joseph to bring his family to a safe place, it was clear that he migrated with his family in obedience to the "angel of the Lord" who told him so. Joseph therefore consciously surrendered his fate to God, and accepted whatever happened in his life and that of his family while in a foreign land as an act of faith in the Almighty. Faith and obedience to the Divine Will was the motivating power for Joseph to live and work in Egypt.

In the same way, any worker migrant or local, even though he is driven to work by human factors—such as, satisfaction of the basic needs for food, clothing, shelter, education for the children, etc.—and other needs which having money could satisfy—should also consider the divine element of work. A worker, who works because he needs to, could do better by believing that he should work because God wills him to. Thus, doing his work in obedience to the Almighty would bring him to a safer place—a more meaningful and satisfying work on earth and a happy life hereafter. (E-mail the author at precious-shop@yahoo.com.)

REFLECTIONS
FOR THE
WORKING SOUL

Saving the Savior

By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS

AT SEMINARS ON "CREATIVITY AT THE WORKPLACE" WHICH WE give to most managers in the corporate world, dreams are shown to be excellent problem solvers at times. Not a few participants have testified and expressed wonder that they have had extremely difficult problems solved unexpectedly in or by dreams. And they occur mostly when they are at the end of their wits trying to find solutions to tight situations.

What seems perplexing is, dream solutions cannot be predicted or programmed. You cannot always say to yourself, "Ah, I will not bother about this problem, I'll just wait to dream of its solution" and then wake up with the problem gone. It may or may not work. But no matter how marvelous dreaming may prove to be, they are in no way a substitute for rational thinking. In fact, what seems effective for most people is to first scour the mind for all possible answers, exploring the problem or situation from all possible angles, and then employing reason and the analytical mind to formulate the needed solution out of whatever verifiable data are on hand.

From the disclosures of the participants who have experienced this phenomenon, it would seem that problems are a spur that compel the mind to exhaust all its known resources in order to discover heretofore untapped ones. What they seem to have in common, though, is the sense of helplessness or powerlessness that grips them at the point of resignation. At this precise point, when reason or analysis is already ineffective, they begin to ask for help. Whether they are conscious of this or not, whether they call this prayer or not, whether they admit this or not, deep inside they begin to cry for help. We now recall Joseph's experience and realize it's a dream that saved the Savior. (E-mail the author at teresa_de_manila@yahoo.com.)

Cheaper medicine for contact center employees

AS TESTAMENT TO ITS UNWAVERING commitment to the health and welfare of its associates, Sitel has launched a community pharmacy that will provide all its Baguio employees with access to quality medicine at a discounted price.

Located at Baguio Site 1, the new medical supplies store is yet another first in the contact center industry. Made possible through a partnership with United Laboratories Inc. it will exclusively carry Unilab products such as Energon, Revicon, Biogest, Alaxan and generic RiteMed brands.

The business process outsourcing industry, specifically

contact centers, has been commonly associated with health risks arising from stress and disrupted body rhythms. To address these concerns, global BPO leader Sitel has aligned itself with the Department of Labor and Employment's Family Wellness Program, creating Sitel's own Our Health, Our Wealth program.

The establishment of a source of convenient and affordable medicine is a major step towards the goal of promoting a healthier lifestyle and increasing the health awareness among Sitel associates. "Right now this is the first, but we believe that ideally, there would be one in every site," says Sitel Baguio physician Dr. Olivia

Bayuga-Mandapat. "We also make sure that we have sufficient medical provisions to meet the needs of our associates. The clinic is open 24/7 with at least one medical personnel always on call. We are capable of providing medicine, emergency care, and transportation to the nearest hospital for cases that need specialized treatment."

Sitel clinical staff also implements wellness programs that seek to improve the health of the employees and promote lifestyle changes geared towards cleaner, healthier living, including responsible parenthood and the provision of a smoke-free environment.

Because of their dedication to health in the workplace, Sitel Philippines Baguio site received the 1st AmCham CSR Excellence Award in the Delivery of Equitable Healthcare category. The award was bestowed by the American Chamber of Commerce Philippines and the American Chamber Foundation Philippines Inc. The first and the only awardee from the BPO industry, Sitel besides 50 entries and received this special accolade as the best company which contributed to the equitable distribution of healthcare to children, including proper nutrition, health education, personal safety, and women's reproductive health.

(+28,787) from 337,140 in the same period last year to 365,927 from January 1 to December 9, 2007.*

JOBMARKETupdates

Text on your feedback Inquirer WP

email: prMetro@inquirer.com.ph

SBWDFI honors outstanding Subic Freeport Workers and Corporate Partners

IN RECOGNITION OF THE crucial roles of the workers in Subic Bay Freeport as key instruments in the country's economic growth as well as in commendation of the outstanding companies in their invaluable contributions to the achievement of industrial harmony and peace, the Ten Outstanding Freeport Workers and the Outstanding Corporate Partners for 2007 were honored on Nov. 28, 2007 at Subic Bay Arts Center (SubAC). This year's awarding ceremonies centered on the theme — "A Workforce Recognition Award Scheme for Workers in the Freeport Zone." This was initiated by the Subic Bay Workforce Development Foundation, Inc. (SBWDFI) under the presidency of Lawyer Severo Pastor, Jr., head of the SBMA Labor Department.

The Awards Night was attended by key leaders of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) Honorable Feliciano G. Salonga, Chair and Head of Agency, Honorable Armand C. Arreza, Administrator and CEO and SDA for Support Services, Lawyer Ramon O. Agregado. In their respective messages they praised these ten outstanding workers for their dedication and hardwork in meeting the standards of excellence in delivering quality products and services while acclaiming the outstanding companies for keeping up with the vision of industrial peace and harmony in the Freeport area.

The Corporate Partner Awardees

The Corporate Partner awardees were selected for their dynamic contributions in making the Subic Freeport as a haven of product excellence, customer satisfaction and equal and just employment opportunities. They were

NICERA PHILIPPINES. The Company's vision is to be the world leader in sensing technology. With Takashi Morimoto as the General Manager, this Company is continuously acquiring input to its maximum strength as it gives prompt service on deliveries by air, sea and land to its customers. Likewise, it has been continuously striving to be the leader in the design, development, manufacture and sales of the industry's most advanced sensing products and related electric components. Certainly with the employment of technically advanced, able

and motivated workforce, it foresees itself to be the leading company on transducer ultra sonic sensor.

SUBIC INTERNATIONAL HOTEL CORP. This corporation is situated at the Central Business District of Subic Bay Freeport Zone. It is known as a haven of today's new breed of domestic and foreign visitors who opt for value for money for their business or leisure trips amidst world class services and facilities.

The Ten Outstanding Freeport Workers

The ten outstanding employees were selected for exemplifying their dedication to work, efficiency, positive work attitudes, leadership capabilities and interpersonal maturity, commitment, innovativeness, service and performance excellence.

Esteban, Maria Teresa V. (Wistran Infocomm Phils Corp). This awardee comes from one of the pioneering companies in SBMA. She is designated as the Head of Human Resources Department of her company. She led her HR Staff by establishing strategic Key Performance Indicator in the HR Department in line with her company's corporate direction. She has formulated training materials related to Company Policy and Welfare Benefits for all employees and documented procedures and work instructions such as recruitment and training systems for ISO Certifications. One of her exemplary achievements is when she took the challenges of being the very first local employee who rose from the ranks wherein majority of the members of the Management team are expatriates.

Fajota, Jocel D. (Mondriaan Aura College) This exemplary mentor comes from an institution known to be a shaper of human souls and human existence through education for liberation. She has been with the institution for about 8 years as a full-time instructor. She has been constantly giving quality learning experiences to her students by teaching them their rights and responsibilities in the society, thus be-

ing a social science teacher. By staying in her profession for the past 8 years, she believes she can be an instrument for promoting equality, social justice and social consciousness. Dedicated, innovative, hardworking, responsible, truly an icon of profound spirit.

Jonson, Emmanuel B. (FedEx). He has been designated as a Freight Service agent. This awardee possesses enormous technical and procedural know-how in the operation of Freight Service Office. He has vast knowledge of the Philippine Customs laws and regulations. He successfully led the conceptualization of Standard Operating Procedures and flowcharts of each task used at Freight Service Office which continuously exist resulting to an organized and effective Freight Service Operations of the Company. With these selfless contributions to the company, indeed he exemplifies a true outstanding Freeport worker.

Laborce, Carlo Z. (Lindberg Subic, Inc). This employee is designated as a Technical Assistant of his company. He is one of the pioneering employees of his company being in its employ for the past 4 years. He has gained great knowledge in properties of materials for heat treatment processes through practical work in the tool shop and through training conducted by Associated Swedish Philippines, Inc. He is always willing to share his knowledge and try to improve his co-workers' skills by teaching them.

Layug, Albert B. (Mondriaan Aura College) This outstanding leader and mentor has been in the employ of his College since 1998. He has been satisfying the institution by rendering his devoted and selfless service as a mentor. He has become a recipient of various school-based awards like "Gawad Dekada" for his outstanding contributions to the various school's undertakings. Presently, he is the school's NSTP Coordinator and as such, he is responsible for the social awareness of the students and in the promotion of community service. He has been a co-partner of SBMA through the agency's projects like River-Clean-Up Drive, SBMA Tree Planting and other similar ac-

tivities. This person exemplifies leadership effectiveness when his colleagues has voted him as their President. His unbiased decisions and assertiveness made him a leader worthy of emulation.

Montemayor, Rosalie A. (NICERA Philippines). With diligent work performance. Ms. Montemayor has established herself as a distinguished and respectable employee of her company. As such, she has continuously displayed outstanding work output, admirable leadership skills and inspiring commitment to work by being selected as an Outstanding Employee of 2006 in her company. Her discerning mind has led countless innovation not only to her work but also to her co-employees' work.

Oxales, Jaime R. (Philippine Coastal Storage and Pipeline Corp). He is one of the senior operators of the company. Though, he is not an engineer, he delivers quality performance comparable to that of a licensed engineer. Through his untiring efforts and professional competence and presence, the Bulk Operations Department has become more reliable

and highly motivated. The company has been offering this awardee supervisory position but would always humbly decline.

Pagal, Emily F. (Mondriaan Aura College) This mentor has been with the College since 1989. She has been the institution's co-partner in producing outstanding students who later became CPA's. Her role as a Freeport worker goes beyond teaching. As a practicing CPA, she helps SBMA implement rules, regulations and provisions in whatever ways. Leadership for her is her ability to follow, not lead. As an adviser of two organizations, she believes in the philosophy that as student leaders, they should exemplify dedication, commitment and unwavering loyalty to the organizations. These cited reflect her integrity and credibility as an outstanding teacher and Freeport worker.

Roman, Elmer D. (Subic Water and Sewerage Company) This outstanding Freeport worker currently holds the position of Roving Associate in his company. He is the one responsible for sustaining water supply of customers in the Freeport area by monitoring water

reservoir and pumping stations located at the area. His personal dedication to his work can be demonstrated through his willingness to work even during those days that are meaningful to Filipinos. His cheerful outlook towards life and work earns him the respect of his colleagues and superior. He has been consistently garnering outstanding rating on his performance evaluation.

Taladlar, Julius L. (Philippine Coastal Storage and Pipeline Corporation) Being one of the senior shift supervisors, this awardee leads his group to attend to the company's client needs on matters concerning discharging, loading and bunkering operations. He possesses exceptional technical knowledge in the operations. His vast experiences made him rise from the ranks. He is a well-respected leader, idolized for his diplomacy and grace under pressure. Despite his position he has kept his feet on the ground. His efficiency, honesty, friendliness and enthusiasm have made him the pride of his company.

The event was hosted by Edgar Geniza and Edith Geniza respectively and directed by Roel Dimallana of Mondriaan Aura College.

Pinoy nurses warned versus agencies asking excessive fees

Employment (Dole) warned nurses wanting to work in New Zealand against recruitment agencies exacting excessive fees from applicants. Labor and Employment Secretary Arturo D. Brion urged applicants who might have been offered jobs in New Zealand as nurses in exchange of exorbitant fees to report these agencies to the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) for the filing of appropriate charges against the erring agencies.

Brion issued the warning following reports indicating that Filipino nurses who found jobs in New Zealand paid P500,000 to P700,000 to the manpower agencies which brokered for their deployment and employment in this country.

The Dole chief also said that aside from collecting excessive fees, the manpower agencies assigned the nurses in rest homes with 15 percent

cut from their monthly salaries.

He said that the Philippine Embassy in Wellington, New Zealand received complaints from victims, adding that the complaints have been referred to the POEA for the filing of charges against the agencies.

In related developments, the Counties Manukau District Health Board (CMDHB) of New Zealand has proposed to recruit Filipino nurses in collaboration with POEA.

Brion said that under the proposed recruitment agreement with CMDHB, all nurse candidates seeking employment in New Zealand shall be registered with POEA. Those who will be chosen shall be deployed through the POEA to CMDHB hospitals in New Zealand.

The Dole Chief said the arrangement shall protect the nurses from unscrupulous recruiters since the CMDHB shall reimburse the nurses' transportation cost, thereby, reducing the mobilization cost of the se-

lected nurses to only over P6,000 each.

He added that the arrangement shall also pave the way for the POEA to ensure the welfare of the nurses to be hired by CMDHB. He said the POEA shall negotiate for the nurses' repatriation coverage and other benefits that are available to overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) from the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA).

He said efforts are being extended for the success of the recruitment arrangement with CMDHB as this is envisioned to pave the way for the forging of a bilateral agreement between the Philippines and New Zealand that would provide for the employment of more Filipino nurses in other district health boards in this country.

This will not only protect the nurses from unscrupulous recruiters but also ensure their employment and welfare in New Zealand, Brion said.

UAE to adopt standard employment contracts for foreign workers

THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES (UAE) IS SET TO adopt standardized employment contracts and other measures aimed at protecting foreign workers including Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) from agencies which are merely exacting money from workers who want to work in this country, the Department of Labor and Employment (Dole) said.

Labor and Employment Secretary Arturo D. Brion said that UAE's Ministry of Labor (MOL) is ready to adopt the electronic employment contract and verification system in which standard key provisions on salary, leave benefits, and airline tickets, among others, are stipulated.

Brion said the employer and foreign worker would sign the contract electronically if the latter agreed to the terms of the contract. The system would be linked to the Ministry of Interior and Immigration, which is responsible for visa

issuances. The system, he said, would eliminate contract substitution and reprocessing of contracts since UAE companies would be required to obtain approval from the Interior Ministry for their labor requirements and individual visas or work permits indicating the name and specific job title of the workers they intend to employ from abroad. The contracts to be approved by the MOL could be viewed online to further ensure that signed contracts could no longer be changed.

The online employment contract and verification system was presented during the 1st joint Philippines and UAE committee meeting on the two countries' memorandum of understanding in the field of manpower held in Abu Dhabi recently, which Brion and UAE Labor Minister Dr. Abdullah Al-Kaabi attended. Both discussed UAE's electronic employment contract and

other concerns aimed at fostering collaboration between UAE and the Philippines in the field of manpower.

During the meeting, Minister Al-Kaabi said that UAE would also issue mission visas in lieu of visit visas to address the problem on visit visa holders seeking jobs in UAE. He said a new UAE law would be passed penalizing companies and employers who employ visit visa holders.

Brion warned would-be OFWs against dealing with unscrupulous agencies enticing them to work in UAE with visit visas only as they may find themselves jobless and in a sorry situation in that country. He asked the workers to deal only with legitimate recruitment agencies and to verify with the POEA any job offers from UAE.

The UAE labor minister also said that his office would work closely with the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) on the recruitment process, stressing that recruitment agencies which are merely collecting money from OFWs should not be allowed to participate in the recruitment of OFWs to be deployed to UAE.

He introduced the idea of engaging a big company in the recruitment of foreign workers to be deployed to UAE. The company will be responsible of the foreign workers' wages and working conditions in UAE.

Meanwhile, Brion said Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed A. Nahyan has committed to provide technical assistance and cooperation in the development of human resources in the country's healthcare industry.

He said the commitment is a welcome development in the nation's efforts to ensure continuous training of Filipino health professionals especially in enabling them meet global standards in healthcare.

Porter & Miles with the Support of dti

Presents

Marketing Trends & Challenges

Fresh Insights and Breakthrough Ideas to Exceed 2008 Targets
JANUARY 30, 8:30-5:30pm, Grand Ballroom, Holiday Inn Galleria

IMPORTANT LEARNING POINTS:

- 25 Global Marketing Trends
- The Power of Online Marketing
- Online Marketing & Consumer Trends
- Maximizing Online Marketing for your Brands
- 12 Principles of Marketing Leadership
- The 7 Traits of the New Consumer
- Defining Your Brand Story
- Designing & Measuring Your Brand Experience
- Social Marketing - Building Minds, Touching Hearts
- Global and Analytic Work style
- 7 Ways to Create a "Brand You"
- 9 Reasons Why Transformational Leadership Fails

FREE BOOKS FROM DTI Bureau of SME

Php2,995.00 + VAT <Super Value Rate until December 31, 2007>
Php3,595.00 + VAT <Early Bird Rate January 1-15, 2008>
Php3,995.00 + VAT <Regular Rate Starting January 16>

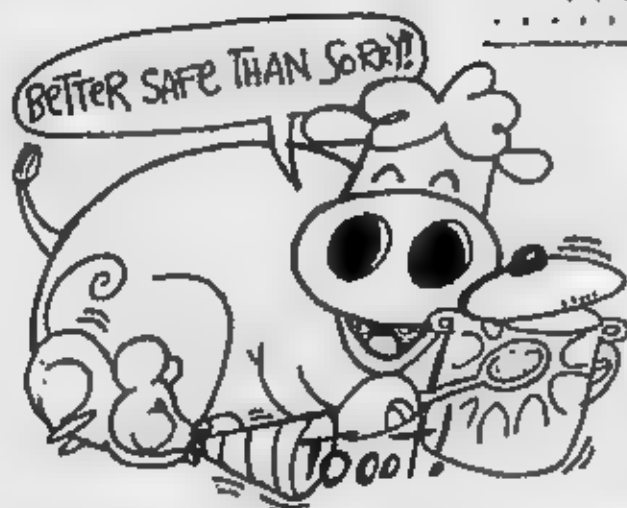
CALL US NOW FOR INQUIRIES AND RESERVATION: LOOK FOR AMIE

Porter & Miles Tel: 706-1392 706-1307 OR TEXT/CALL
Your Partner For Greater Productivity Fax: 706-1321 0917-2425247

This Event is Sponsored by:

INQUIRER BusinessMirror citibank JOB MARKET UYUPLUNA CROWN PLAZA

INQUIRER JOB MARKET VALUED ADVERTISERS.
Inquirer JobMarket officers and branch managers with their valued advertisers.



Junior INQUIRER

WHAT'S INSIDE:

Meet Hamzah Marbella,
the
young
master
Page 4



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2007 ♦ 8 PAGES ♦ VOLUME 10, NUMBER 92

Here's to a safe New Year!

By Ruth L. Navarra

BEFORE THE CLOCK strikes twelve on January 1, go to your kitchen. Go past the juicy ham and the colorful, round fruits on your table, way past the hot cocoa boiling on your stove.

Open the cupboards and reach for pots and pans. Start banging them wildly, as hard as you can. Invite your parents, siblings, and everybody in your house-

TOOT!



below," says Health Secretary Francisco Duque III.

Making noise to welcome the New Year is believed to chase away evil spirits or bad luck. People say that the louder the noise, the better luck you'll have. This pushed the makers of firecrackers to come up with more kinds of noisemakers.

But the Department of Health warns us to be wary of them. Secretary Francisco says a firecracker called the **piccolo** is popular among kids because it's small and easy to light.

"The piccolo has injured 119 children last year," he says. He adds that firecrackers like the **triangle** can cause

burns, and even internal injuries.

"Ingredients of these products include animal manure that makes the blast louder, but when it enters your system can cause tetanus." Tetanus can cause lockjaw, difficulty in breathing or seizures that can damage your spinal cord.

He cites another popular firecracker called **watusi** as another dangerous product.

"Watusi is poison. Kids often mistake it for candy because of its colorful wrapper. We even had a case before where a child died because it was ingested," he says. Sec. Duque says that if you swallow one, take 6-8 raw egg whites and immediately consult a doctor. Better yet, just stay away from **watusi**.

Even seemingly harmless **sparklers** (*lusi*) can cause serious third degree burns.

Third degree burns are so bad that all the layers of your skin, down to the nerve endings, are badly damaged.

But don't fret, you can still welcome

the New Year with a bang. Blow trumpets as loud as you can or turn your radio volume up. Or better yet, grab a microphone and sing your heart out to usher in a happy year!

hold to join in the fun!

If you welcome New Year this way, you'll keep yourself and the rest of the family safe.

"Fifty-three percent of the 1,167 accidents caused by firecrackers during New Year celebrations last year (involve) children ages 15 years old and





Think Out Loud!

IN 2008 I WISH THAT THE PHILIPPINES...

...will have enough food supplies for poor people.
—Christine R. Peñaranda, 10, Bacoar, Cavite

...will have citizens who clean up after themselves, plant trees and do not pollute our water resources.—Mika Denice P. Remo, 8, Bacoar, Cavite

...will not experience any natural disasters like storms or earthquakes that will claim lives.
—Monica B. Bongon, 10, Bacoar, Cavite

...will have peace and that there will be no more fighting in the government.—John Dex Cabal, 7, Canlubang, Laguna

...spend more money on kids like me.
—Moses Simon R. Cabal, 6, Canlubang, Laguna


... have less criminals roaming the streets.
—Aaron Joseph R. Cabal, 10, Canlubang, Laguna



Guyito's Corral

Welcome to my corral!

This is your own special space, where you can express your thoughts and feelings about anything under the sun in the form of essays, poems, letters and even illustrations!

Send all contributions to . Don't forget to indicate your full name, age and the city where you live. We'll be waiting!

dear JI,

I finally got a chance to e-mail you after days of schoolwork.

I've been reading JI since I was a kid. I remember that I look forward to Junior Inquirer every Sunday. I eagerly leaf through the paper's different sections because I want to get JI first, as my sister loves it too.

I was saddened when JI was stopped. But I continued hoping that someday, I would find a copy of JI again. Imagine my joy when I found a JI in PD! I now have something to look forward to every Sunday.

I'm now a 4th year high school student, but I go back to my 7-year-old self everytime I read JI. Thanks INQUIRER, for bringing back JI!

—Priscilla Ruth D. Bicaldo
15 years old
Davao City



We're glad we bring out the JI to you. Priscilla! We hope you keep reading it and that you keep growing up and becoming a big girl!

THIS IS THE LIFE!

Junior INQUIRER

GRACE M. LEUNG
Editorial Consultant
LYNETT A. VILLARIBA
Design Consultant
LIZ RAÑOLA
Art Director
RUTH L. NAVARRA
Staff Writer
DIANNE M. VILLAFUERTE
Editorial Assistant
STEPHANIE BRAVO
Illustrator
CHITO SAN MATEO
Marketing Officer
MYLENE DE JESUS
Sales Officer

THE JUNIOR INQUIRER is published by the Philippine Daily Inquirer on each Sunday of the month.

E-mail: ji@inquirer.com.ph
Office address: Philippine Daily Inquirer Building, Chino Roces Ave. (formerly Pasong Tamo) corner Yague and Mascarido Sts., Makati City, Philippines

Telephone number: 897-8808 loc. 340 (Editorial) and 534 (Sales).

Snail mail: P.O.

Box 2353

Makati Central Post Office,

1263 Makati City,

Philippines.

All set for fireworks

FIRECRACKER retailers in Iloilo City's public plazas are expecting customers to flock to their stalls on Dec. 30-31. Vendors are required to place plastic covers on their firecrackers, and have a ready supply of water and sand to use in case of fire. **Arnold Almacen/Inquirer Visayas**

Iloilo, PHILIPPINES

Phang Nga, THAILAND



A sky full of memories

FLOATING paper lanterns fill the sky over the Andaman Sea in remembrance of the 2004 tsunami victims in Khao Lak, north of the resort island of Phuket. The Indian Ocean tsunami on December 26, 2004 killed almost 6,000 people and left nearly 3,000 missing in Thailand. **Reuters**

Happy to be home

SAMAHER Jalal Hrimi, 10, returns home after five years in the Gaza Strip. She went there with her grandmother, who died during their stay. She had to wait for Israel to issue her permission to return to Bethlehem. **AFP**

Wassup World?



Bethlehem, PALESTINE



Treasures From The Past

Time to brush up on your knowledge of history! Who among the following is a former American President?

- A) Abraham Lincoln
- B) Douglas McArthur
- C) Ferdinand Magellan

Ten lucky readers who will answer correctly will each get a "National Treasure: Book of Secrets" compass, padlock and notebook.

Send us your answer at j@inquirer.com.ph together with your complete name, address and contact numbers. Deadline of entries is on Jan 8, 2008.



HEY KIDS!

FROM THE

Junior INQUIRER

WIN TICKETS TO WATCH THE MUST-SEE SHOW OF THE YEAR!

Disney ON ICE



Just answer this question:

Where will the Disney on Ice Mickey & Minnie's Amazing Journey be held from January 18 to 27, 2008?

Lucky winners who get to answer correctly will get 3 tickets to watch Disney on Ice - Mickey & Minnie's Amazing Journey live at the Araneta Coliseum! Email your answer with your complete name, age & address to j@inquirer.com.ph on or before January 9, 2008.

All set for fireworks

FIRECRACKER retailers in Iloilo City's public plazas are expecting customers to flock to their stalls on Dec 30-31. Vendors are required to place plastic covers on their firecrackers, and have a ready supply of water and sand to use in case of fire. **Arnold Almacen/Inquirer Visayas**

Iloilo, PHILIPPINES

Phang Nga, THAILAND



A sky full of memories

FLOATING paper lanterns fill the sky over the Andaman Sea in remembrance of the 2004 tsunami victims in Khao Lak, north of the resort island of Phuket. The Indian Ocean tsunami on December 26, 2004 killed almost 6,000 people and left nearly 3,000 missing in Thailand. **Reuters**

Happy to be home

SAMAHER Jalal Hrimi, 10, returns home after five years in the Gaza Strip. She went there with her grandmother, who died during their stay. She had to wait for Israel to issue her permission to return to Bethlehem. **AFP**

Was Sup World?



Bethlehem, PALESTINE



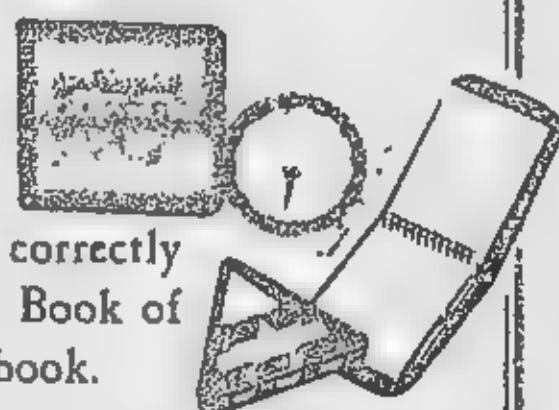
Treasures From The Past

Time to brush up on your knowledge of history! Who among the following is a former American President?

- A) Abraham Lincoln
- B) Douglas McArthur
- C) Ferdinand Magellan

Ten lucky readers who will answer correctly will each get a "National Treasure: Book of Secrets" compass, padlock and notebook.

Send us your answer at ji@inquirer.com.ph, together with your complete name, address and contact numbers. Deadline of entries is on Jan. 8, 2008.



HEY KIDS! FROM THE Junior INQUIRER

WIN TICKETS TO WATCH THE MUST-SEE SHOW OF THE YEAR!



Just answer this question:

Where will the Disney on Ice Mickey & Minnie Amazing Journey be held from January 18 to 27 2008?

Lucky winners who get to answer correctly will get 3 tickets to watch Disney on Ice - Mickey & Minnie's Amazing Journey live at the Araneta Coliseum! Email your answer with your complete name, age & address to ji@inquirer.com.ph on or before January 9, 2008.

RETAKES OF PRECEDING FRAME

Kids
'r'rific

Young

The Master

By Dianne M. Jafuete

WHEN HAMZAH Marbella was about two years old, he would collect softdrink caps, marbles, paper clips and other odd items that he would find around the house. He would arrange them to create "collages." Then, he would show his creations to his father.

Mang Renato, an art instructor, did not pay attention to Hamzah's "junk art" at first. "But after a while, I realized that his collages actually tell stories, like paintings do," he says. He got curious about his son's potential talent, so he gave Hamzah a sketch pad and a set of oil pastels to see what the boy can do.

Within a week, Hamzah had filled the sketch pad with drawings and doodles.

Hamzah started joining art contests which he, sure enough, topped. "Even if it costs a lot to travel from General Trias (in Cavite) to Manila, we still join because I want Hamzah to have the experience," says Mang Renato. "And I know that he will win," beams the proud father.



Six-year-old Hamzah continues to join, and win art competitions. He fills countless sketchpads and cartolinas with his drawings—drawings which remind grownups of the works of modern master Pablo Picasso. Some art enthusiasts fondly refer to Hamzah as the "young master".

The youngest ever member of the Art Association of the Philippines, Hamzah got into the prestigious organization when he was 5 years old. Members of AAP were awestruck with Hamzah's works.

What's even more fascinating is that Hamzah has no formal training in drawing or painting; he hasn't

taken any art classes. Not even his dad, who is a painter, taught him. "I saw that he has his own style and I don't want him to lose that. Actually, I was worried about Hamzah's bold use of colors. He would make the face all red, or he would color the hair orange, yellow, blue and green. But then, after seeing how unique the finished works are and hearing people's praises, it didn't bother me anymore," says Mang Renato. "It's very good that Hamzah has a signature style, that if you see even just one (drawing), you'll easily know that it's made by him."

Hamzah's artworks are playful, funny depictions of everyday life.

Majority of his drawings feature fishes (because 'fish vendors pass by their house every morning) and cats (he likes taking care of stray cats).

The eldest of seven kids, he also loves drawing his family. Mang Renato fondly recalls a story, "For his scholarship exam at Eton International Primary School, Hamzah was asked to draw the one thing that makes him happiest. We were expecting him to draw material things such as toys, especially since he's a kid. We and the directress were very surprised to see that Hamzah drew our family, in a circle, holding hands."

With his family behind him all the way, we're sure this young master's works of art will soon be seen and loved by more and more people.



RAGNAROK

BY LEVEL-UP GAMES

LAST MINUTE SHOPPERS, HERE'S YOUR CHANCE! UP TO 80% OFF @ THE HYPERMART UNTIL JANUARY 9, 2008! PLUS NEW ANIMATED HEADGEAR: BELL RIBBON, FISH HEAD HAT & SANTA POKING HAT! FOR DETAILS, PLEASE VISIT [HTTP://WWW.RAGNAROK.PH](http://WWW.RAGNAROK.PH)

LEVEL UP INC. COPYRIGHT © 2007 GRAVITY CORP. AND LEE YOUNGJIN. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

After a week's journey...

RAGNAROK
Philippine
ONLINE RPG

OUR HEROES' CARRIAGES FINALLY ROLL INTO RACHEL, THE CAPITAL CITY OF ARNAFELTA.

THEIR ARRIVAL DOES NOT GO UNNOTICED.

THE LOCALS LOOK AT THE OUTSIDERS WITH MIXED EMOTIONS:

SUSPICION... FEAR... AMUSEMENT... APATHY...

EMOTIONS BORN OUT OF THE TENSION THAT HAS SUMMERED BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES FOR DECADES.

BOKRATOS, RACHEL CITY CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD, ESCORTS OUR HEROES TO THE DIPLOMATIC RESIDENCES.

I AM ASSIGNING TWO OF MY MEN TO STAND GUARD HERE FOR THE DURATION OF YOUR STAY, ROYAL ADVISOR SILVERMAINE.

MUCH OBLIGED, CAPTAIN. KINDLY TAKE MY LETTER TO YOUR POPE.

I SHALL TAKE IT NOW. MAY FREYA BLESS YOU.

Requiem for RACHEL Chapter 5

Story by Mark Navarro
Pencil and Ink by Jhemar Soriano
Colors by Dennis Manana of Mangaholic

ONCE INSIDE THE DIPLOMATIC RESIDENCE...

WITH YOUR PERMISSION? PROCEED, MARDEN.

ALL RIGHT! HERE ARE YOUR ASSIGNMENTS FOR TOMORROW:

REEM, WICKS, YOU'RE WITH ME. WE'LL GO WITH THE ROYAL ADVISOR TO SEE THE POPE.

THREE TRANSCENDENTS AS A SHOW OF FORCE.

JETHRO, HARUKO, RECON TRY TO FIND ANYTHING ABOUT THE VALKYRIE, VARGAS OR KREIG.

TAEYANG, DAL, HOLD DOWN THE FORT-- WHOA, WHOA, WHOA!

"HOLD DOWN THE FORT?" I DON'T WANT TO BE STUCK HERE! No offense, brother.

None taken, sister.

EXCITED? THAT'S FINE. I'LL STAY. MAKES NO DIFFERENCE TO ME.

TO BE CONTINUED.

PUGAD BABOY

BY POL MEDINA JR.

TUTUPARIN KO NA 'YUNG NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION KO.

IBABALIK KO ANG DATI KONG BRUCE LEE ABS.

ITE-TRAIN KO ANG LAHAT NG ABDOMINAL GROUPS KO. 'YUNG TRANSVERSUS AT RECTUS ABDOMINUS AT 'YUNG EXTERNAL AT INTERNAL OBLIQUES.

E DI HINDI MO NA KAKAININ 'YUNG MGA PABORITO MONG PAGKAIN?

HINDEEE, WALANG BAWAL NA PAGKAIN, LILITAN KO NA LANG 'YUNG PORTIONS.

E DI HINDI KA NA RIN TOTOMA?

'YUNG RICH FOOD KASI E DUME-DERETSO SA TABA NG HITA, 'YUNG ALAK NAMAN E DUME-DERETSO SA TABA NG TIYAN.

MAY NEXT YEAR PA NAMAN E.

D.EEERP!

ZITS

BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



FULL HOUSE

BY STEPH BRAVO



SUNDAY,
DECEMBER 30, 2007

INQUIRER COMICS *Sunday* 7

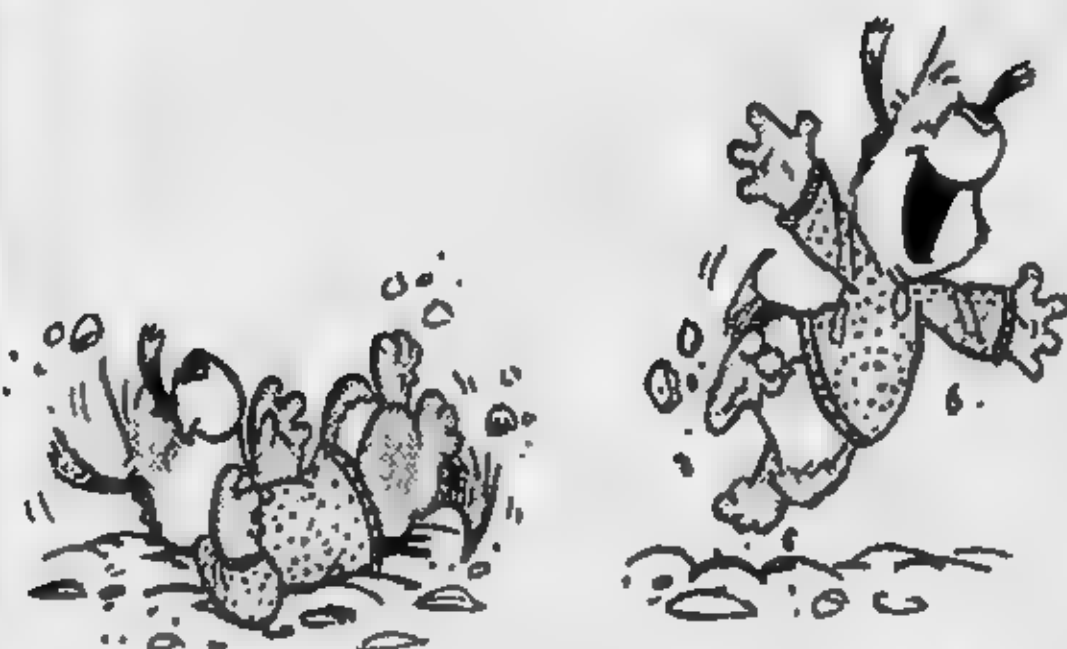
GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS



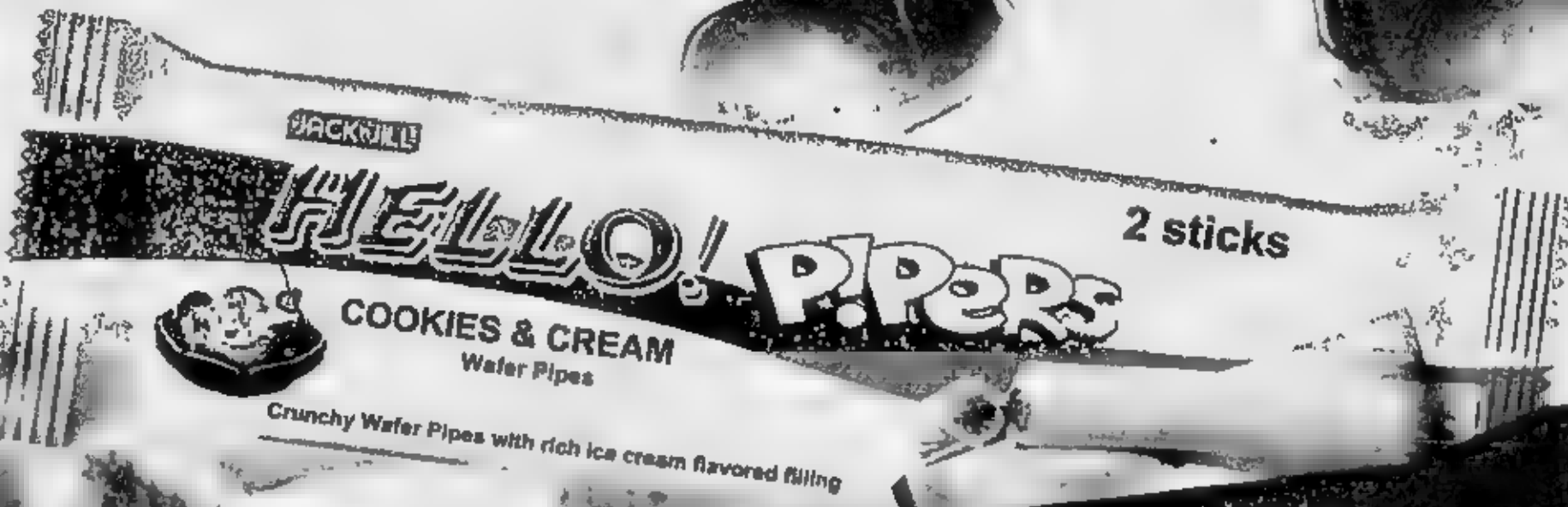
BUCKLES

BY DAVID GILBERT



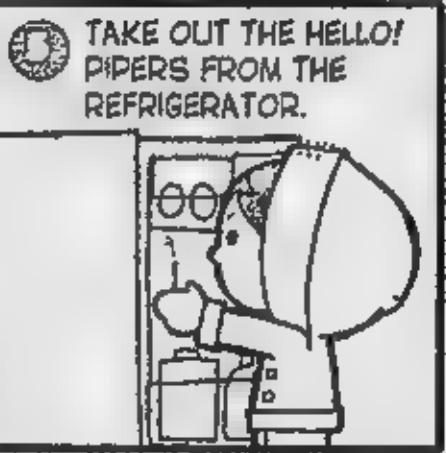
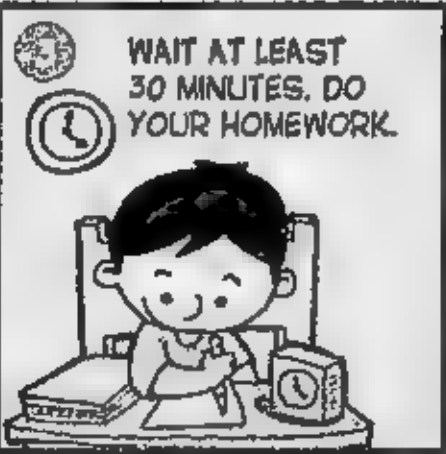
CHILL KALANG WITH HELLO! PIPERS

ANG ICE CREAM FLAVOR
NA NASA
WAFFER STICK!



HELLO! LANG NANG HELLO!

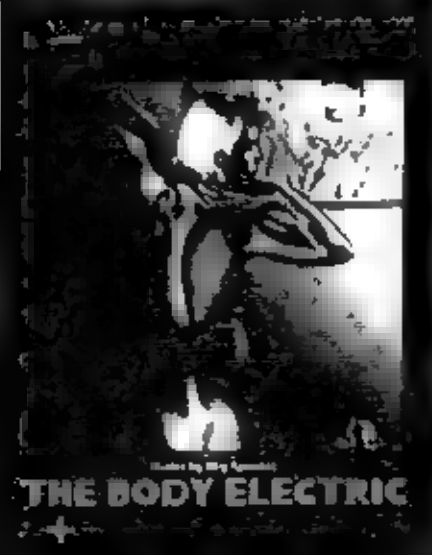
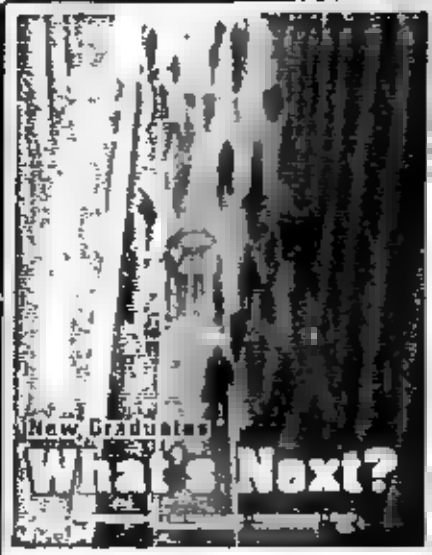
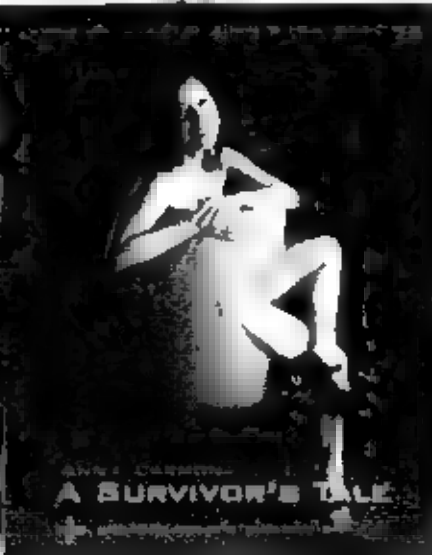
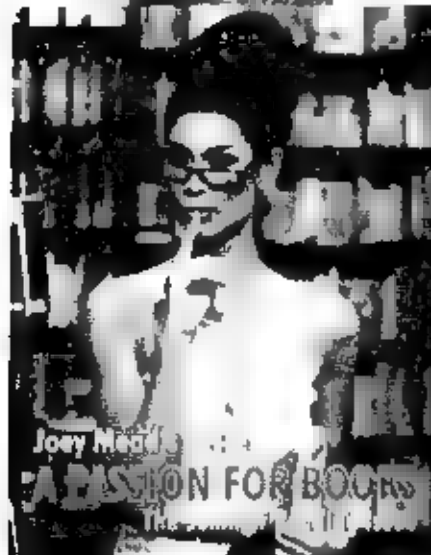
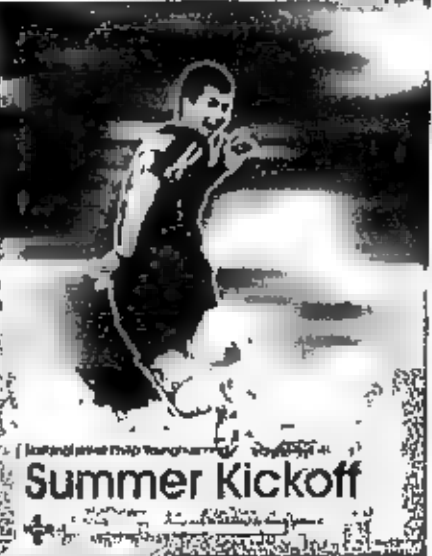
**BEST SERVED
CHILLED!**



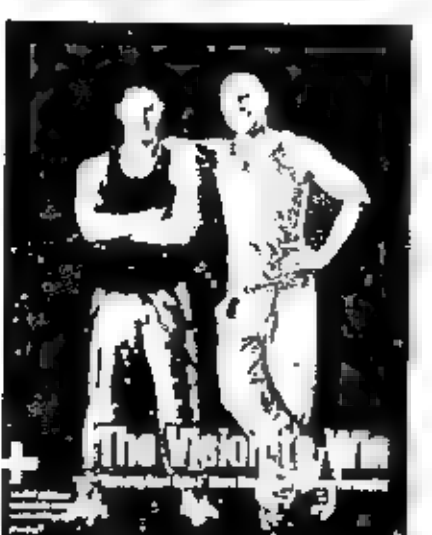
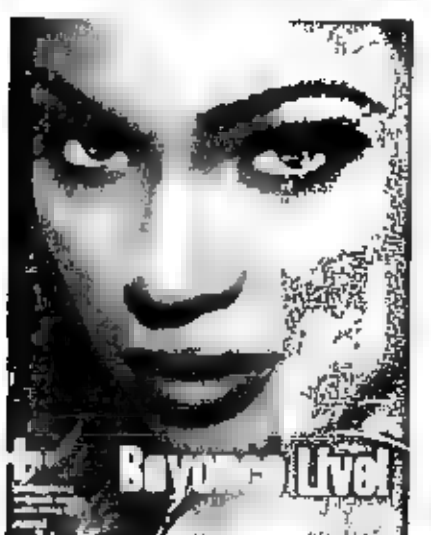
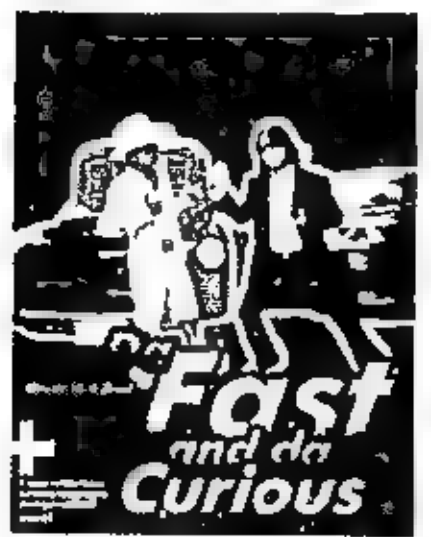
FREE

sunday INQUIRER magazine

December 30, 2007



A YEAR OF SURPRISES



plus: 12 proud moments + best veggie treats + objects of techno-lust + more!

My Delicious Dozen

These 12 restaurants reflect the creativity, passion and dedication of their chefs year after year and can compete with some of the top restaurants in the world



Margaux Salcedo



Courtesy of Haagen Dazs

Mamou: Darling of '07 (left); Haagen Dazs' "Seventh Heaven": Just what it says (above)

WHY is Christmas the season of love? *Kasi lahat nagmamahalan: ang presyo ng manok, nagmamahalan; karne, nagmamahalan; gulay, nagmamahalan ...* (This joke doesn't work in English, sorry!)

Yet despite the rising cost of living, restaurant after restaurant opened this year and there's more to come in 2008! Here are some of my favorites, my delicious dozen in '07. The tried and tested restaurants have maintained their excellence all these years and just keep getting better, while a few wonderful newbies have again added color to our food-loving world.

Tried and tested

These restaurants have reflected the creativity, passion and dedication of their chefs year after year. They truly count among the top restaurants of the country and I dare say can even compete with some of the top restaurants of the world.

Lolo Dad's

I used to ignore this restaurant on Quirino Avenue, thinking it was a hole in the wall. Boy was I wrong! It is as impressive inside as it is unassuming on the outside, and the food is nothing short of spectacular. In fact, I have shied away from doing a critique of this restaurant because I personally feel I have yet to earn the honor of doing so. Chef Ariel Manuel's creations are so brilliant, his creativity led the Philippine Team to win the gold in the '07 Hong Kong Food Expo. He is our very own iron chef! 899 Quirino Ave (between Taft and Leon Guinto), Manila. Tel. 524-2295.

Pepato

The general sentiment about Pepato is that it is overpriced. I don't think so. Maybe the fact that it is located in a mall brings about comparisons with neighboring establishments, bringing about the price resentment. But Marganta Fores' creations are worth every centavo and she makes sure of it, too, going to extreme lengths to bring her customers ingredients from the world over, that to demand cheaper prices would be robbing her of her art and efforts. Just back from another visit to Europe, Fores is now experimenting anew with the white and black truffles she has brought home. Greenbelt 2,

Ayala Center. Tel. 757-2636.

Cirkulo

This restaurant has come a long way from being the "see and be seen" place in the early '90s. Today this restaurant counts as a favorite among foodies and chefs alike and after just a bite of anything on the menu, you can easily see why. When something as simple as mushroom soup blows you away, you know you're in good hands. Chef J Gamboa's insistent highlighting of the raw flavors of the ingredients makes you pay attention to the food and inevitably say, "This is how it should taste!" Milky Way Bldg., Arnaiz Ave. (formerly Pasay Road). Tel. 810-8735.

New and fascinating

Mamou

Mamou was the darling of '07, with its home-cooked meals and personalized service. When I wrote about it a few months ago, President Arroyo and Imelda Marcos had already dined there. Now I've learned that former President Estrada has visited as well. What is it with Mamou and A-list politicians anyway? Serendra. Tel. 856-3569

Chateau 1771

My first restaurant experience in the newly opened Greenbelt 5. The restaurant reeks of opulence. It makes you want to dine in haute couture. A high ceiling, high back chairs, and a high-brow menu. You forget you're in the Third World. Greenbelt 5. Tel. 729-9760.

Apartment 1B

This restaurant has become my second home, thanks to an amazing breakfast menu, really strong coffee, a homey ambiance and free wi-fi. In the heart of Salcedo Village, it is perfect for gypsy professionals like me! This restaurant also has great steaks although my personal favorite is their scrambled egg whites. Chef Marivic Diaz-Lim rocks! One Lafayette Square, Sedeño St. (between Leviste and Valero). Tel. 843-4075.

Sweets

Sweet Bella

Cristina Santiago-Rivera creates these rich cakes that are so pretty you wouldn't want to cut them up. Her Mango Charlotte is to die for! Call 0928-5025027.

Sweet Life

Ange de la Cruz became known for her cupcakes at the Baker's Dozen Bazaar in Rockwell. But even better than her cupcakes is her Frozen Brazo de Mercedes. Watch out for this kid, she's only 18 and already making waves! Call 0917-8238198.

Sweet Addiction

Honey Dy makes cakes that are lovely and very reasonably priced (read: cheap!). She makes a really delicious Almond Coffee Crunch and really rich chocolate truffles. I have put her on speed dial on my phone. Call 0918-5304610.

Ice Cream

Haagen Dazs

The first non-franchise Haagen Dazs store has opened in Mall of Asia and offers creations for hedonists and gluttons! Creations here, like the Seventh Heaven, allow you several scoops of ice cream at one go! It's perfect after watching a movie at the Imax theater with your friends. 2/F Mall of Asia.

Angelati Italia

I came across this brand at this year's Noel Bazaar in World Trade Center. A couple of ice cream-obsessed women trained in Italy are now back to take Manila by ice cream storm. They have curiously delicious flavors like Kiwi Banana and can deliver the ice cream to your doorstep! Call 559-0316, 562-2217, 0917-8111411.

Spirits

Martinis

What is life without spirit? Count on The Mandarin Oriental to take the sexiest spirit of all, the Martini, and build a home for it. From the classic dry to crazy concoctions like Wasabi Martini, this bar is hands down the best addition to the Makati landscape this 07. At almost P300 a glass, their drinks are an absolute pain in the pocket but with prettiness all around you, jazz in the background, and a bartender who can actually call a drink, the day's wage won't be wasted—only you will, heh heh! Mandarin Oriental Makati. Tel. 750-8888.

And that, ladies and gentlemen, was the Year of the Pig. Happy New Year! •

Figure it out



Aftermath of the Glorietta blast

P48.914 to \$1: Exchange rate average in January 2007

P43.21 to \$1: Exchange rate average in November 2007

\$1.1 billion: Total remittances from Overseas Filipino Workers in January 2007 alone

\$11.9 billion: Total OFW remittances from January to October 2007

3.9 percent: Inflation rate in January 2007

3.2 percent: Inflation rate in November 2007

P468-P533: Dealers' pick-up price for an 11-kg LPG tank, as of Jan. 30, 2007

P594-P650: Dealers' pick-up price for LPG as of Dec. 10, 2007

1: Rank of the Philippines in the German Watch Global Climate Risk Index 2008, meaning that of a total of 128 countries, RP is the most affected by extreme weather events.

\$329 million: Cost of the controversial National Broadband Network project

33: Total number of people killed in the Virginia Tech shooting in April, including gunman Cho Seung-hui

11: Total number of people killed in the

Glorietta 2 blast in October

11.2 million: Total number of votes garnered by Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV during the May 2007 elections

70: Age of deposed President Joseph Estrada when he was convicted of plunder in September. He was granted pardon 43 days after the guilty verdict was handed down on Sept. 12.

P500,000: Amount Pampanga Gov. Ed Panillo said he received after a meeting with President Arroyo in October

100+: Number of people arrested at the end of the standoff at the Manila Peninsula in November

30: Estimated number of media personnel held by the police after the Manila Peninsula standoff

Compiled by Inquirer Research

Source: Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, Department of Energy, Inquirer Archives

Not a moment too soon



"Double Burden"

WERE that all senior moments were as creative as this! But trust multi-awarded writer/ publisher/ theater producer/ artist (you still with us this far?) and all-around cultural worker Gilda Cordero-Fernando to put a delightful new spin to menopause and make hot flashes sound so cool. At 77, Fernando has put up her first solo exhibit of 50 water color paintings, with subjects ranging from zodiac animals and people, to women's issues, humanoids, fairies and germs. And all rendered in her trademark quirky style. "Senior Moment" runs from January 6 to January 31 at the Le Souffle in Amorsolo Drive, Rockwell Center, Makati. P.S. Young people also welcome. *



The year 2007 has been an amazing one for Xtreme Magic Sing, the original Magic Sing. Endorsed by Sarah Geronimo, the country's Xtreme Pop Star, Xtreme Magic Sing livened up parties, gatherings & strengthened family & friendship bonds the world over. Xtreme Magic Sing even took strides in promoting & encouraging the Filipino's natural love for singing through videoke singing contests & giving scholarships to the winners.



12 Things That Made Us Proud in 2007

Give yourself a pat on the back. You could be on this list



Team Sinag shines in Australia



The UP Madrigal Singers hit the high notes in Italy

It wasn't easy, I can tell you, when I was first asked to draw up a list of 12 things Filipinos did in the last year that inspire pride, mainly because I was thinking big, collective national action.

I had to remind myself that there's no lack of individual valor out there: people who persevere, teachers, health professionals and thousands of others who serve, people who stand by their convictions, wage-earners who find, and turn in, hundreds and thousands of pesos of cash. The accounts of heroic honesty always get me, and I wish the *INQUIRER* and other papers could honor them with a year-end list. I did try to track them through the Internet, but couldn't track them all down.

1. Not even on **Good News Pilipinas**, which is an interesting website that wants to balance out the flood of bad news we get on the mass media. On this website you'll find every little development that offers a ray (a sliver?) of hope. And for that, **Good News Pilipinas** gets into my attempt at a feel-good list. With that though, I have a caveat: **Good News Pilipinas** has a lot of coverage of awards, and I feel uncomfortable about that because awards are a peso a dozen now. So if I do pull out some awards for my list, it's only because I feel the awards are genuine, that they do count toward national pride.

Onwards now with the rest of my list... this isn't ranked, incidentally. I think every small gain—in the area of literature, or science, in or out of government—clears the way for greater collective achievements.

2. **MAN Literary Prize 2007.** Jose Dalisay, Jr.'s "Soledad's Sister" made it into the short list for

the first-ever **MAN Literary Prize Award**, which is given to an "Asian novel unpublished in English." Watch out for future awards and, I hope, Filipino winners. I predict this award will gain prestige in years to come as a showcase of Asian literature.

3. **RP Solar Car.** Team Sinag, composed of De La Salle University students, managed to finish the World Solar Challenge, all 3021 kilometers, in Australia, driving their own solar car. They didn't win it, but they were one of 21 teams from all over the world that showed what solar power can do... and how Filipinos might, literally, plug in.

4. **Filipino indie films.** The future of tomorrow's film industry, our independent producers/directors/cinematographers continue to reap international awards. A few of the winners: "Rigodon," "Donsol," "Kubrador," "Kaleido," "Ang Daan Patungong Kalimugtong."

5. **UP and Ateneo hanging on.** The two Filipino universities are still in the Times Higher Education Supplement (THES)'s list of best universities in the world. The listing is based mainly on votes from academics and job recruiters of large companies rather than more objective indicators, but then, reputation and perceptions do count as well.

6. **Sports plus.** Despite weak government support, our athletes still compete internationally, winning medals in events like the Asean Taekwondo Festival and the just concluded Southeast Asian Games. Also worth noting: we now have a 14-year-old chess grandmaster, Wesley So, who made it in the Prospero Cup International Open.

7. Six Filipino high school students won prizes at

the **Intel International Science and Engineering Fair.**

8. **Chorales and Choir Awards.** UP Madrigal Singers won the European Prix for Choral Singing in Arrezo, Italy, described as the "choral Olympics." There have been all kinds of prizes won in other choral competitions, by all kinds of groups from the UE Chorale to the Sta Teresita Parish Chorale.

9. **Every Juan Should Travel.** Cebu Pacific continues to make travel more affordable for the Filipino with cheap tickets for both domestic and international destinations, forcing other airlines to bring down their fares as well. Let's hope that means a more culturally open Filipino rather than just more shopping addicts.

10. **Missionary routes.** Kudos as well to SEAIR for offering flights to places like Jolo, Pagadian, Camiguin and several areas in Palawan, all good for stimulating local tourism, and linking these previously neglected places to the rest of the country and the world.

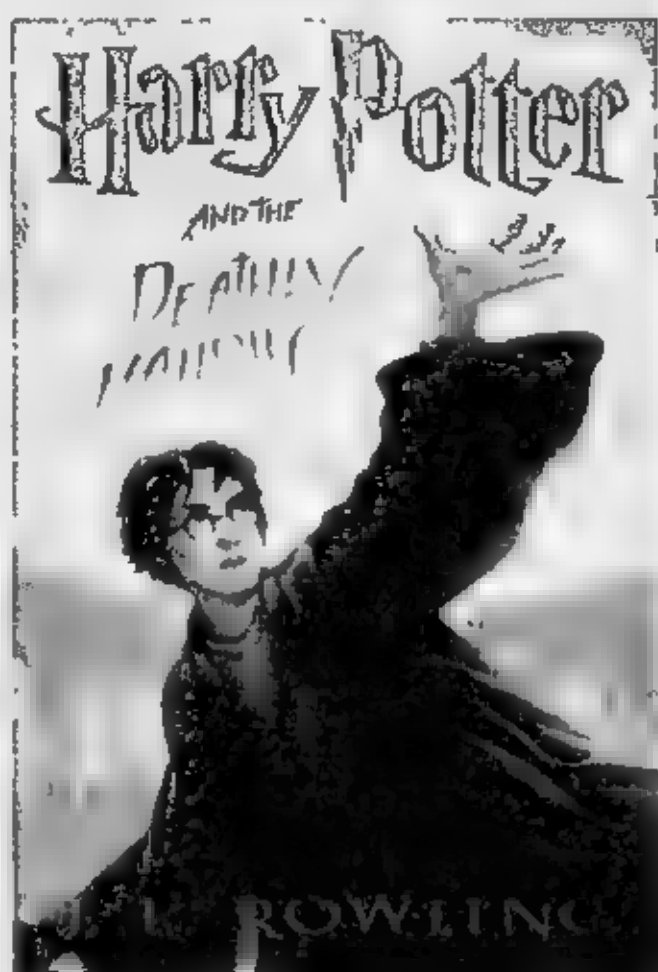
11. **The Elections.** Cynical as we are about politics, we still turned out in large numbers to vote in May. There's some hope yet—we kept good governors like Grace Padaca in Isabela, voted in new blood like Father (on leave) Ed Panlilio for Pampanga, and shunned showbiz personalities and boxers.

12. **Staying.** Finally, for those who've resisted the temptation to pack up and migrate, even while understanding those who did leave, we deserve a pat on the back and best wishes for 2008 and beyond. •

12 to Read Them All

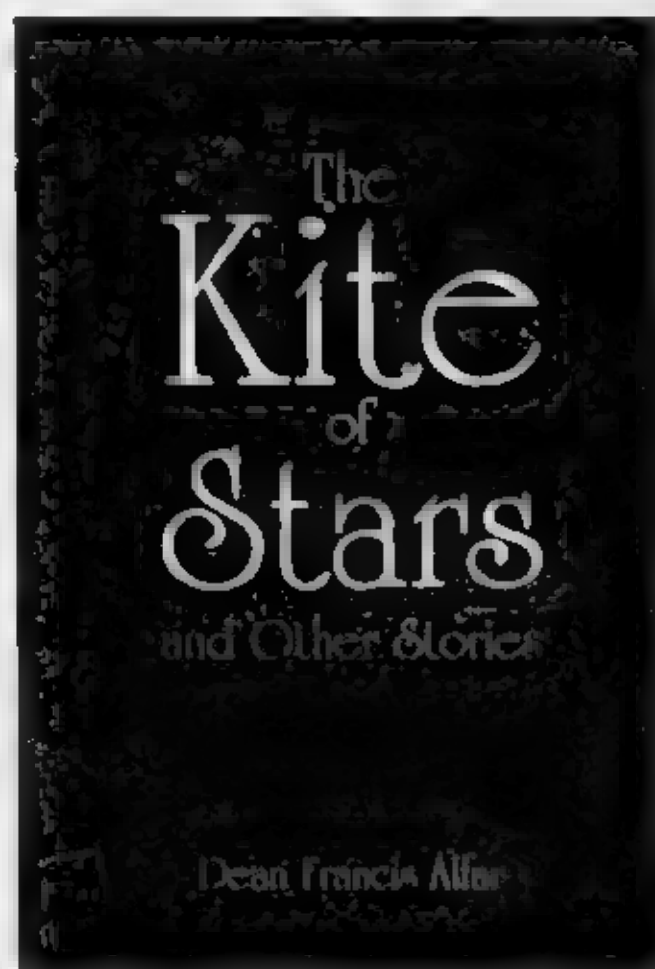
A word to the wise: books are still in fashion. These 12 titles prove it

EVEN as more people bemoan what appears to be the young generation's growing distaste for reading, 2007 was actually a banner year as far as those old-fashioned artifacts called books were concerned. The pages turned, minds opened. Local or foreign, big or small, books were hot topics these past 12 months, and here, in no particular order, are 12 tomes that hit the shelf just right.



1. "Harry Potter and The Deathly Hallows" by J.K. Rowling (Arthur A. Levine Books): The single most identifiable reason kids learned to be excited about reading again, Rowling's seventh book put the period on the Harry Potter saga and delivered exactly what it promised.

2. "The World Without Us" by Alan Weisman (Thomas Dunne Books): Perhaps the most original non-fiction book of the year, a case of Richard Preston-meets-Bill Bryson, it shows us what the world will be like if man were to suddenly disappear. Scary prospect: it just might be a much better place.



3. "The Kite of Stars and Other Stories" by Dean Francis Alfar (Anvil Publishing): This award-winning fictionist shows in this debut collection how exactly he has become the brightest light in Philippine speculative fiction. For one, his stories are smooth and stunning in their harnessing of

Carmen Guerrero Nakpil



Legends & Adventures

imagination.

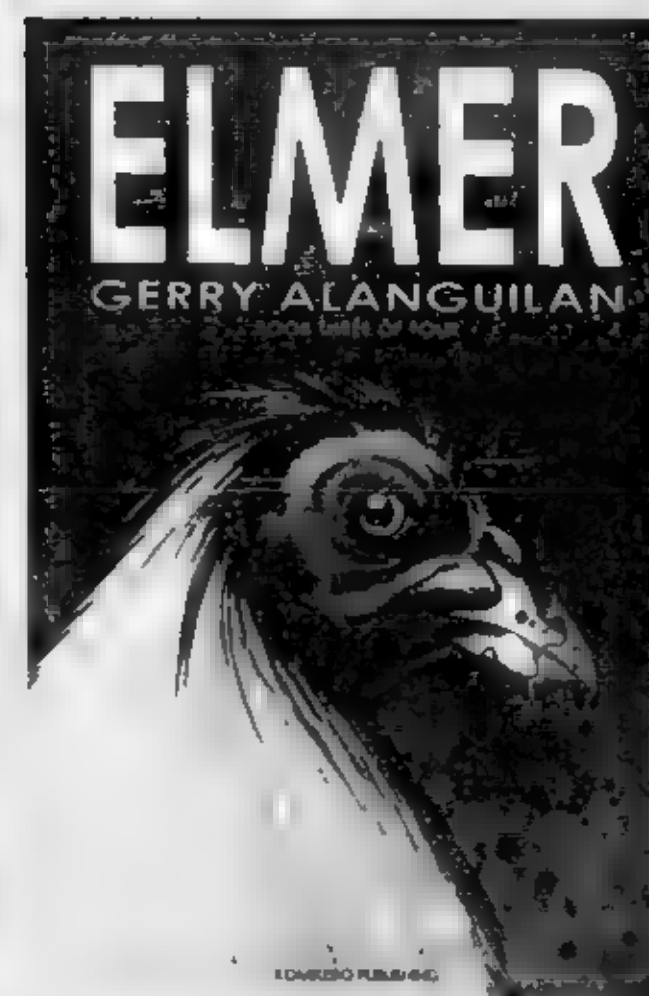
4. "Legends & Adventures" by Carmen Guerrero Nakpil (Nakpil Publishing): The second volume in Nakpil's promised autobiographical

trilogy, "Legends" begins after the Second World War, when Nakpil as a writer, widow and much more, shows us a woman in full with a world suddenly wide, in a book powerful enough to contain it all.



5. "The More The Manner: Pinoy Clichés and Other Words of Wisdumb" (Tahanan Books): Funny and enlightening, this tiny illustrated book of Filipinos' common English malapropisms will leave readers in teary-eyed, wordless stitches. Not to be read in public, to avoid the spectacle.

6. "Eclipse" by Stephenie Meyer (Little, Brown and Company): Perhaps the most unexpected hit series in recent years, Meyer's vampire love story teems with addictive characters and a gripping narrative. This third book brings Bella and Edward's story to dangerous, rewarding heights.



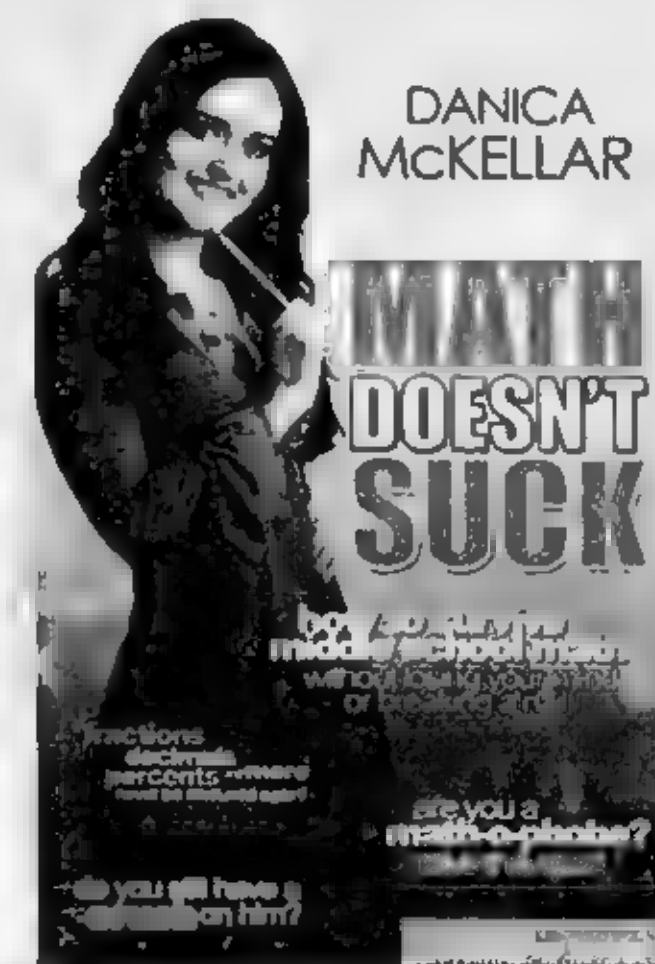
7. "Elmer" # 3 by Gerry Alanguilan (Komikero Publishing): The year brings the penultimate volume in Alanguilan's offbeat and amazing comic book mini-series about a Philippines where chickens have gained sentience. This issue recalls the all-important day when the chickens discovered they were their own, uh, birds.

8. "Tongues on Fire" by Conrado de Quiros (Anvil Publishing): Agree or disagree with him, Conrado de Quiros remains the

most compelling columnist in the country today. Here, in these speeches, he shows that his cool rhetoric is just as sharp in longer forms.

9. "John L. Gokongwei Jr.: The Path of Entrepreneurship" by Marites A. Khanser (Loyola Schools Ateneo de Manila University): A surprisingly reader-friendly recollection of Gokongwei's rise from nothing to tycoon, framed with the classroom in mind, but rewarding even for those with a passing interest in what really makes a business—or businesses—succeed.

10. "Expeditions: The Philippine Graphic/Fiction Awards Vol. 1" (Fully Booked): Fully Booked's Neil Gaiman-sponsored contest bears remarkably compelling fruit, with both the Prose and Comics volumes proving to be impressive reading as well as a formidable showcase of Filipino creativity.



11. "Math Doesn't Suck: How to Survive Middle-School Math Without Losing Your Mind or Breaking a Nail" by Danica McKellar (Hudson Street Press): Yes, that is the child actress formerly known as Winnie Cooper of "The Wonder Years." She happens to be a respected mathematician who even has a solution named after her. In this very accessible, hip book, she makes math sound like it's doable and likeable.

12. "Textual Relations: Poems" by Ramil Diga Gulle (UST Publishing House): Accomplished poet Gulle continues his journey through the sensual and sensical body electric with his latest collection. The poems are literate and lyrical, sexy and senti, but all deliciously playful. •



ALAN WEISMAN

12 Looks and Trends That Sizzled

Products and fashion ideas that made us look fab, while battling for animal rights and the environment

No doubt you have your own list of what items should make it to this list but here's SIM's version culled from months of personal road testing and in depth discussions with insiders on what they thought deserved a shout out.

1. Eyeliner that actually stays put and doesn't migrate onto your lower lashline, giving you that "raccoon eye." There's Make Up For Ever's Aqua Eyes Waterproof Eyeliner Pencils whose formula is dermatologically and ophthalmologically tested. So it's safe even for use with contact lens wearers and those with sensitive eyes. Expert make up tip: To brighten the eyes, use a bright shade such as Copper or Pistachio on the inner rim while tracing the outer rim with a darker shade such as Burgundy or Green.

2. Affordable beauty creams. Everyone deserves to be beautiful regardless of budget constraints. L'Oreal Paris has come up with a non-invasive affordable solution to keep heads turning your way: Revitalift Double Lifting Treatment. It's almost a steal at P795 a bottle.

3. Luxury creams may be expensive but for the lucky few for whom price is no object, Guerlain created a product that

may be worth its weight in gold. This is a case where the story of why a product works is almost more interesting than the product itself: 30ml, P13,800.

4. Though not exactly a beauty product, the rise of the spa as an accessible pampering treat among Filipinos, is worth taking note of. The



Alhambra's moorish influences

rejuvenating, de-stressing, energy boosting treatments do make one feel beautiful. So from Mandarin Hotel's luxurious teak haven in Makati to make-do spas in malls and the Meddah Spa in Cebu's famed Hot Stone Massage, one can have an hour of sheer bliss from P400.

5. Kiehl's is finally here! Almost three years in the making, fans of the cult New York brand can now run over to Greenbelt Five to stock up on their favorite products from this popular beauty apothecary. Cult favorites include: Lip Balm no. 1, Blue Astringent and Avocado Eye Cream. So forget lugging that extra weight of Kiehl's products from abroad and use the space for some other must-have—like the new Apple iPhone.

6. Recyclable Bags are HOT! When companies like SM, Rustan's Shopwise and Inquirer fashion columnist Jenni Epperson start creating eco-pretty reusable bags, there is only one thing to do: run out and get one. Minimize your carbon footprint one less plastic bag at a time.

7. Laser cut lace details and fabulous fit by Carey Santiago, an amazing talent from Cebu, who can make even the most homely look quite comely..

8. Alhambra, a unique fashion collaboration between two of Manila's most sought after creative talents: fashion designer Inno Sotto and internationally acclaimed bag designer Bea Valdes. Inspired by the famed Moorish palace in Granada and attended by Isabel Preysler, Alhambra's launch at the Makati Shangri-la wowed even Manila's most demanding critics.

9. Destination Mall Ayala does it again with Greenbelt 5. Expect to find the best selection of international brands like Paul Smith, Kiehl's, Dotdotdot, Michael Kors, B & O etc., popular US brands like Marc Jacobs and Banana Republic,



Guerlain luxury cream: Worth its weight in gold

as well as boutiques that feature talented local designers like Lulu Tan Gan, Vic Barba, Kate Torralba and Patrice Diaz Ramos. This mall is bound to be Manila's next best place to shop, to see and be seen in.

10. Samsung and Metro's Metrowear fashion show collaborations. A win-win situation all around initiated over five years ago by Thelma San Juan, the show was a means of providing design veterans and newbies an opportunity to showcase their wares.

11. The "luxe sweats" market made fashionable by 'juicy couture' has caught on even among Manila's ladies-who-lunch set: Adidas-Stella McCartney, Nike's Maria Shaparova line and cult Canadian yoga brand Lululemonstores which is available at Aura Atletica in the Power Plant Mall in Rockwell.

12. Fashion with a cause, be it for animal rights or the environment. Fashion shows that have heart beneath that glossy exterior and have been a strong champion for "going green," using recycled and vintage material as well as statement t-shirts to raise, sell and wear awareness. Vintage bazaars and trunk show sales for children's causes and breast cancer or going naked for your pet are definitely worth supporting. Still, why not look fab while you're at it? •



Eye candy. Make Up Forever's eyeliner pencils



Non-invasive solution

12 Objects of Techno-Lust

Gadgets that push your buttons

TODAY'S gadgets aren't so much about making your life easier as they are about making your life seem more interesting (than it probably really is).

I mean, everyone already has a cell phone and an MP3 player and a PDA, so who really needs the iPhone? If you gotta ask, maybe you're impervious to marketing hype. Gadgets aren't about need (except perhaps the need to look cool)—they're about want. It's the gadgets that are pushing your buttons and not the other way around. And the little gremlins who make and market these high-tech toys are ever so clever in figuring out which of your buttons to push.

So bring on the techno bling-bling.

1. iPod Touch. Watching movies on the postage stamp-size display of the iPod Video can be a chore for those of us with less than 20/20 vision, but the iPod Touch's 3.5-inch widescreen LCD makes portable video actually enjoyable, specially when you call up your porn—I mean, your video library—on the touch-screen interface. Add Wi-Fi web browsing capability and it's a no-brainer. The only niggle: only 16 gigabytes of storage space.

2. Fatman iTube ValveDock. Even before hearing it, I wanted it from the moment those vacuum tubes lit up the gleaming stainless steel faceplate. The audiophile-certified Fatman is basically a tube amplifier for your iPod, and miles away from those dinky iPod docking stations in sound quality as well as, unfortunately, in price. But for those who insist on absolute musical fidelity, even for their MP3 downloads, it might be worth every centavo.

3. Nokia E90. The marketing geniuses over at Nokia came up with the brilliant idea of calling the E90 a "communicator" rather than a cell phone, and with reason. This business phone (meaning, you better have a business to justify its features as well as its hefty price tag) has broadband connectivity, an integrated GPS and get this, two video cameras for video calls.

4. Philips Swarovski Active Crystals. This tie-up between Dutch electronics giant Philips and the Swiss luxury crystal firm exemplifies the essence of techno-bling: totally unnecessary but



The Apple iPhone



The Nikon Coolpix S51c

totally desirable. Wearing a USB flash disk around your neck certifies you as a geek, but wearing one of these babies makes you, at the very least, a fashion-forward geek.

5. Sony VAIO UX Micro PC. The dream toy for any techno-geek, Sony leaves its competitors in the dust in the palmtop PC sweepstakes with its UX series. It's Vista-ready but sensibly runs Windows XP Professional, it has WiFi, Bluetooth, 10/100 Ethernet, a touchscreen display, front and rear cameras, and the piece de resistance: a biometric finger scanner that makes it yours and yours alone. How cool is that?

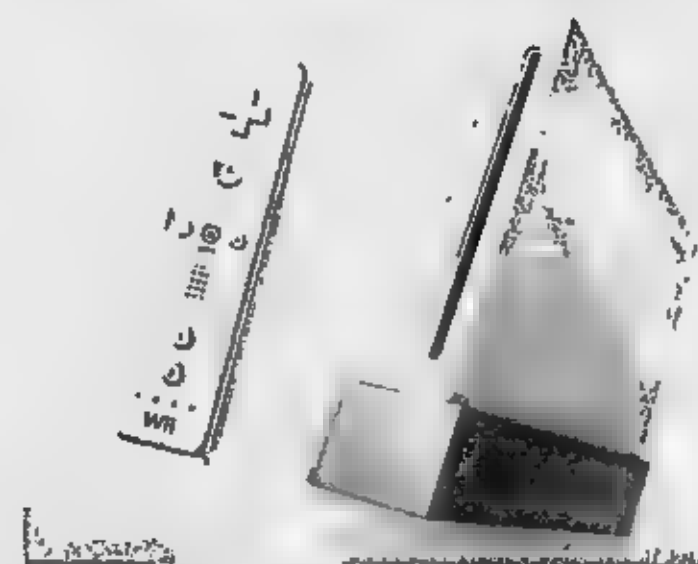
6. Apple iPhone. I was one of those sceptics who thought the iPhone would never fly here—until I saw ads for clones, hand-lettered in Pentel pen, pasted on the walls of my favourite pirate DVD emporium. A black market is always a good sign that an item has "arrived," and true enough, a myriad iPhone unlocking services followed in its wake, making the iPhone Pinoy-ready and thus worthy of inclusion in this list.

7. HTC Touch. Now if you're one of those iconoclasts who have to go against the tide (for instance, if you listen to a Creative Zen MP3 player instead of an iPod) then this "smart phone" is the one to consider instead of the iPhone. It has the touchscreen interface, Bluetooth and WiFi, a camera and the usual PDA features—and it's not made by Apple.

8. Nikon Coolpix S51c. With more choices than ever before, choosing a digital camera can be a bother. Nikon helps make it easier by giving the 8-megapixel Coolpix S51 wireless capability, so you can email your photos directly from the camera—handy if you run out of storage space



The Sony VAIO UX Micro PC



The Nintendo Wii

in the middle of a shoot. Plus, it's a Nikon, a name that still carries a lot of respect in photography circles.

9. Nintendo Wii. When Nintendo called one of its first game controllers a "Nunchuk" (that's a chaku in Pinoy), it proved it had the handle on what today's gamers want. It slid effortlessly into the contemporary pop culture zeitgeist, elbowing its way ahead of rivals Playstation 3 and xBox. The release of its Gibson Les Paul-like attachment for "Guitar Hero III: Legends of Rock" seals the deal.

10. Sachs MadAss 125. Can a scooter be a gadget? Maybe when it's a moped. The MadAss is actually an overbuilt mountain bike with an engine on it. The original MadAss had a dinky 70cc four-stroke motor, but this year's model ups the displacement—and the fun factor—to 125cc. Just watch out for that exhaust pipe mounted under the seat. It gets really hot, and if you're not careful, you just might find out why it's called a MadAss.

11. Apple MacBook Pro 15-inch. This might be the one to make PC diehards switch. Powered by an Intel Core 2 Duo processor, it also has the capability to run Windows XP for those so inclined, and a 15-inch display ready for HD content.

12. Panther Mini Stun Baton. Finally, if you really have to carry all your bling around with you, you might consider also carrying one of these: it looks like a baton but it's actually a 300,000-volt stun gun. Just in case you find yourself having to defend your hard-earned gadgeteria from would be predators. It also comes in a 500,000-volt model, if you think you might need more firepower. *

Freezing the Moment

THAT magic moment can be as prosaic as a wedding scene—two happy people marching down the aisle to stand as principal sponsors in a love match. But getting the picture required extraordinary pluck: the photographer had to haggle his way to the very exclusive affair to shoot the couple who, in real life, are political adversaries.

It can be a pensive portrait of a grieving actress who had just lost everything—her mother to a lingering illness and their house to a fire. Now, how to get that shot without intruding on this woman's private moment of grief...

In some shots, the photographer just had to click without further thought and freeze the moment before it passes. That's how it was in the coliseum where two players from opposite teams were locked in a heated argument.

It can be a picture of momentary peace in times of war, when battle-weary soldiers can be human again and worry about mundane stuff like recharging their cell phones, the better to text messages to their loved ones later. For this, the photographer had to be imbedded as part of the troops so he could follow them during their military operations that could last several days on end.

Some days the photographer had to beat the cops to the scene to preserve the innocence of the moment, as in the shot of a busload of preschoolers mugging for the camera, unaware that they were being held hostage by a madman. The man had threatened to blow himself up and the children if his demands were not met by the government.

This is what photojournalism is about: that one moment when all the elements of a story are frozen in a frame. It's all about story telling without words, the best there is, as confirmed by the awards given these shots taken by INQUIRER's finest photographers. **Ernie U. Sarmiento**



Strange Bedfellows: Political enemies Rep. (now Senator) Francis "Chiz" Escudero and President Macapagal-Arroyo stand as sponsors in the wedding of Atty. Karlo Nograles and Marga Montemayor. Photograph by Ryan Lim



Grieving Daughter. Actress and activist Chin-Chin Gutierrez in a poignant moment as her mother Cecilia is laid to rest at the Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina. Photograph by Raffy Lerma



Faceoff: San Miguel's Danny Idefonso and Red Bull's Enrico Villanueva get up close and personal in a PBA game. The two are now teammates on the Magnolia Beverage Masters. Photograph by August de la Cruz



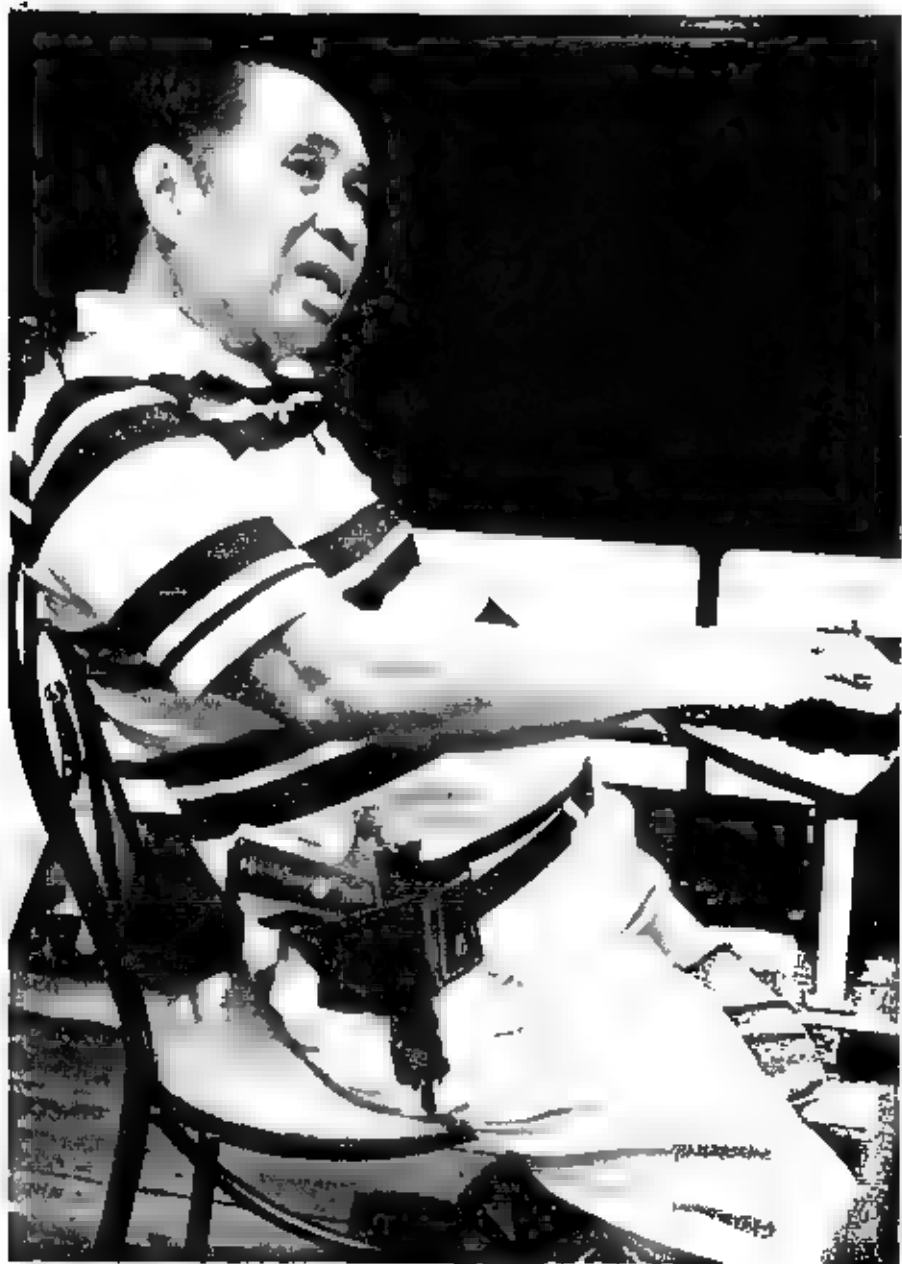
Call waiting: Members of the Marine Battalion Landing Team 9 string up their phones in the only spot that catches cellular signals in Patikul, Sulu. Photograph by Rem Zamora



User name: Voters search the precinct lists for their names during the May elections in San Antonio, Makati. Photograph by Erik Arazas



Spare the children: Youngsters from a daycare center stare out from a bus window while held hostage by the daycare center owner in front of the Manila City Hall. Ironically, the owner, Jun Ducat, was demanding free education for the children. Photograph by Ryan Lim



Defiant: Controversial Comelec Provincial Election Supervisor Atty. Lintang Bedol talks to the media in Cotabato City. He remains a fugitive today. Photograph by Edwin Bacasmas



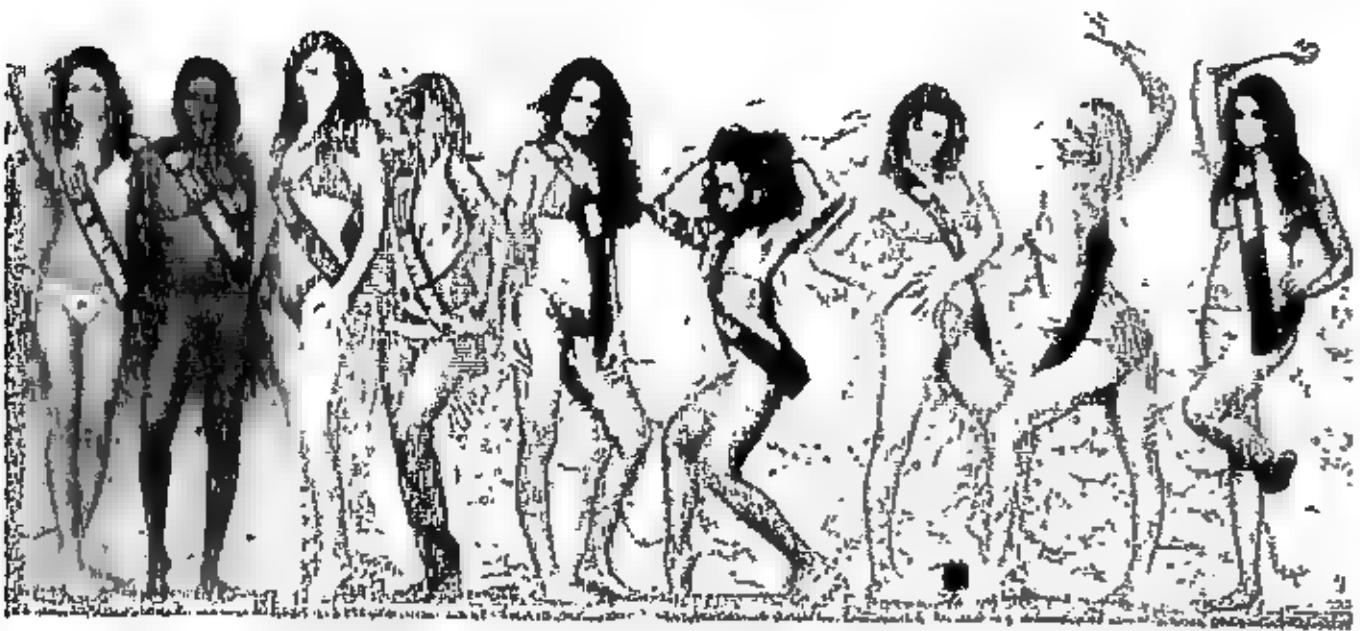
Bosom buddies: Two babies hold hands as Filipina mothers join those in 23 other nations in a synchronized breastfeeding event to celebrate World Breastfeeding Week. Photograph by Rem Zamora



Guilty and free: Former President Joseph Estrada leaves the Sandiganbayan with his family after being found guilty in a six-year trial. Estrada would later be pardoned and is now a free man. Photograph by Rem Zamora

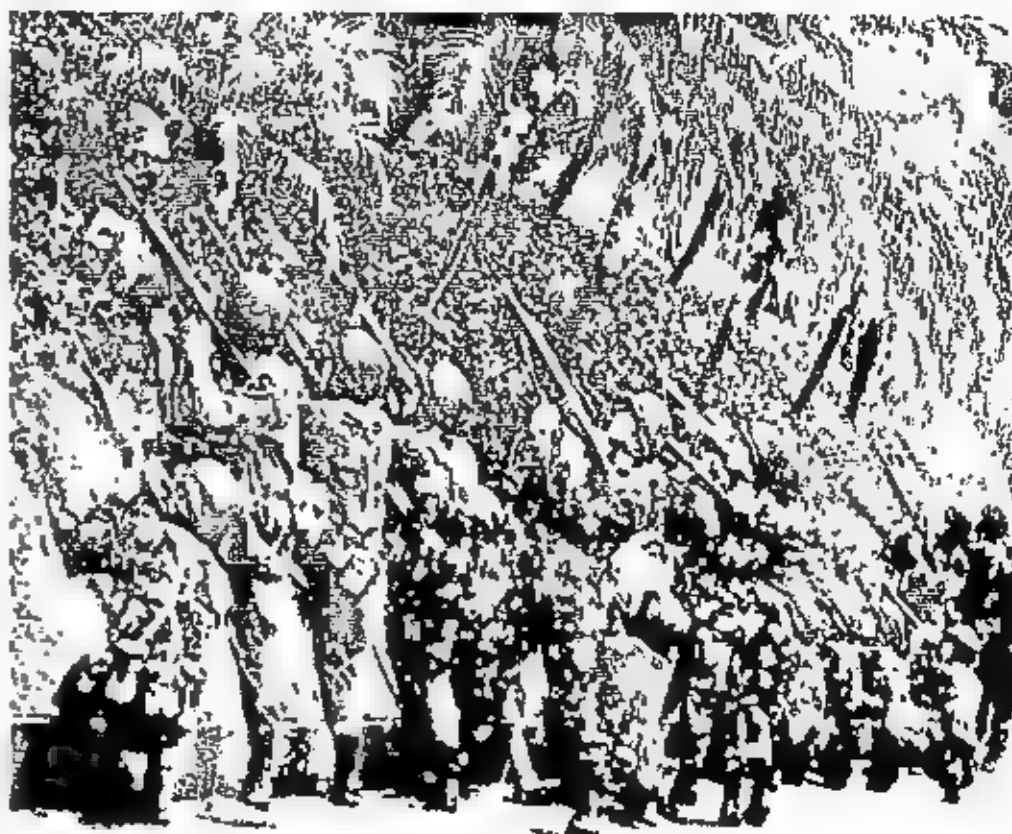


Arrested in Utrecht: Jose Ma. "Joma" Sison, founder of the Communist Party of the Philippines, broods at the National Democratic Front headquarters in the Netherlands. Dutch police arrested Sison in connection with the death of two of his former colleagues in the Philippines. Photograph by Ernie U. Sarmiento



Refreshing beauty: Candidates vying for the title of Miss Earth 2007 frolic by the pool in Calatagan, Batangas. Photograph by Jim Guiiao Punzalan

Order of battle: Government soldiers prepare to storm the Peninsula Manila in Makati after renegade soldiers, led by detained Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV, hunkered down at the hotel while calling for the overthrow of the Arroyo government. Trillanes and his men later surrendered. Photograph by Edwin Bacasmas



12 Top Showbiz Headlines

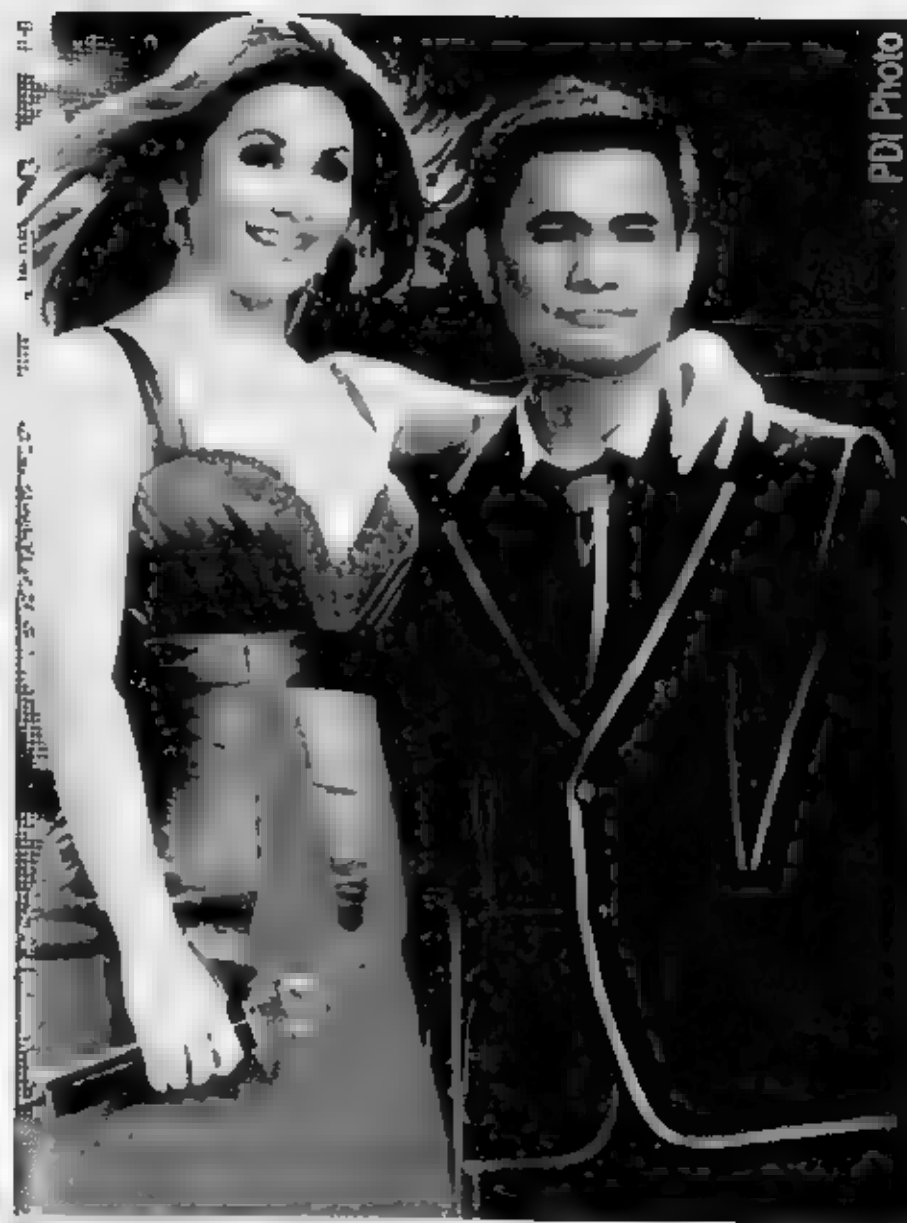
Quick, somebody adapt these stories into a movie. The cast of thousands include all of us who read the papers or watched television in the past 12 months



Angel Locsin



"Kubrador"



Regine and Ogie

January: "Kasal, Kasali, Kasalo" gets critical acclaim

Amid the regular fare of slapstick comedies, fantasy tales and melodramas that are seen as sure-fire formulas for box office success in the Metro Manila Filmfest, comes "Kasal, Kasali, Kasalo," a romantic comedy that is as insightful as it is funny in chronicling Filipino married life. While Judy Ann Santos' mainstream appeal has a lot to do with the movie's success, its nearly P140 million take in the two-week filmfest period shows that the Filipino moviegoer may be evolving at last.

February: Hope for Kris and James

It's trouble in paradise for a couple whose closely-watched life together has become a virtual reality show. They had it coming. As the scandalous details emerged from beauty clinic employee Hope Centeno, Kris Aquino and husband James Yap found themselves in the eye of the storm. Despite the headlines, their marriage prevailed, a rarity in the fickle world of showbiz.

March: Rudy Fernandez vs the Big C

An indestructible action star, bigger than life, finds himself facing a formidable opponent: cancer. Onscreen bravado takes over. In his birthday message, Fernandez declared "I ain't gonna die yet." The words lifted him one level above the tough guys he portrays onscreen; this time, he has become a real-life survivor.

April: Kris Aquino wins over family

After the scandal that nearly tore her marriage apart, Aquino gave birth to baby James, who proved to be the miracle she was praying for—the reason to live and love for the sake of family.

May: Ruffa Gutierrez moves on

Her decision to move on from her marriage to

Yilmaz Bektas became the most widely-followed showbiz story for some time. Why not, when the "he said, she said" intramurals had all the makings of a telenovela, including fierce, sometimes obscene exchanges and revelations of physical abuse and marital infidelity. But Gutierrez did move on, resurrecting her show biz career with several television shows and movie projects.

June: Ogie, Regine come clean

For the longest time, rumors linked the two renowned singers who consistently denied any relationship beyond casual friendship. So when Ogie Alcasid and Regine Velasquez finally confirmed speculations, they earned both flak and praise. But the two are holding fast to each other and hopefully, their relationship would prevail.

July: "Kubrador" wins latest award

The movie's latest win in the Bangkok Film Festival tells of the phenomenal rise of independent cinema in 2007. The win encouraged more Filipino filmmakers to make their mark in both the local and international film circuit. Because of such movies, highlighted by Jeffrey Jeturian's "Kubrador" and Brillante Mendoza's "Foster Child," foreign filmfest organizers have been seeking out Philippine entries.

August: Angel Locsin signs ABS-CBN contract

A TV network's biggest star hies off to a rival station. The story provoked yet another chapter in the protracted network war. This time it's personal. Everyone watched as Angel Locsin signed a lucrative contract with ABS-CBN, fierce rival of the network that built her career from scratch and made her a star—GMA 7. Network executives even shed tears at seeing their top

contract artist leave, but for the actress, this was a move worth burning bridges for.

September: Rustom Padilla wins Gawad Urian

For most matinee idols, admitting that one is gay spells finis to one's movie career. But Rustom Padilla—who outed himself in a nationwide reality show—defied the odds and won the prestigious Gawad Urian Best Actor award for his role as a closeted homosexual in the fantasy-comedy flick, "Zsa Zsa Zaturmah."

October: "Marimar" rocks

Despite the current dispute in the ratings game, there's no denying that the Filipino adaptation of the Mexican telenovela "Marimar" has caught the nation's imagination. With reports of nearly half of the Metro glued to the show every night, "Marimar" may yet be television's biggest winner in 2007.

November: Carlene-Cristine catfight

Two women, a guy with a roving eye, and a baby he seems to have forgotten. Love triangle erupts in an altercation and the filing of a court case. In the end, sanity prevailed, with apologies and an amicable settlement all around. Ironically, the guy who caused it all—Dennis Trillo—seems the least concerned. "*Hindi ako nagpapa-apekto, (I don't allow myself to be affected)*" he says.

December: Bong-Edu tiff

A senator unhappy with the anti-piracy chief's performance in doing his job. The latter's brazen rebuttal. A war of words. In the end, both Sen. Bong Revilla and Optical Media Board chair Edu Manzano would admit that their scathing personal attacks could only benefit their common enemy—the film, music, and computer software pirates. So far, Bong has extended a hand in peace. Edu has yet to return the favor. •

12 Athletes Who Scored Big

A topsy-turvy year brought triumph and disappointment, but some did their part to light up the sports landscape



1. Manny Pacquiao

Despite not wearing a world title belt, Manny Pacquiao remains a box-office hit in the world of Philippine sports. Unquestionably, he is the "man of the masses." Known in the boxing world as the scourge of Mexican boxers, Pacquiao got kayoed by pint-sized Darlene Antonino-Custodio when he ran for congressional office in the May elections. Not afraid to venture into uncharted territory, Pacquiao is also a budding action star and a television host. The country watched in awe as the rapid-punching GenSan pride knocked out Mexican Jorge Solis last April at the Alamodome in San Antonio, Texas, before scoring a unanimous decision win over aging veteran Marco Antonio Barrera.

2. Nonito Donaire

Unlike Pacquiao, Fil-American wonder Nonito Donaire is a legitimate world champion. He unseated Vic Darchinyan before defending his world flyweight title against Luis Maldonado last December 2 in Connecticut. Articulate and a gentleman, Donaire has gained the nation's affection by not turning his back on his roots. Donaire and Gerry Peñalosa's stunning win over Daniel Ponce de Leon for the WBO bantamweight title erased disappointment over the rapid fall of former WBC light-flyweight Brian Viloria.



3. Harry Tañamor

If he were made of lesser stuff, Army Sgt. Harry Tañamor would simply have packed his bags and leave a checkered career in amateur boxing after getting suspended last year by the Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines for lack of discipline. But the native of Zamboanga City is a man of honor and pride, working up a chance to rejoin the national team. Result: a silver medal in the AIBA World Boxing Championships last November in Chicago, Illinois. Not only did he give the Philippines its second silver, but he lined himself for another shot at Olympic glory by becoming the first Filipino boxer to gain berth in the 2008 Beijing Games.

4. Miguel Molina



This Cal-based swimmer emerged as the country's most bemedalled athlete in the 24th Southeast Asian Games in Thailand. With his three-gold output, Molina drove the Philippine team to an eight-gold output in the biennial Games and will compete in his second Olympics in Beijing. Though given a slim chance to fish for a medal in Beijing, Molina's drive to perfection should inspire the country's young swimmers.

5. MVP

The three Bs and a T for this hugely-successful businessman. Manny V. Pangilinan aka MVP to



the knowledgeable set is at the forefront of the Philippines' drive for international sporting glory. Devoting not just money, but guidance as well, Pangilinan is funding the "Go for Olympic Gold" drive of boxing and taekwondo, while his MVP Cup never fails to attract the top guns of badminton. The PLDT-Smart chair owns the Talk 'N Text franchise in the PBA. He also chairs the Samahang Basketbolista ng Pilipinas-BAP which is tasked to run the country's favorite sport.

6. Amina Villafuerte

There's no winter in the Philippines but this did not prevent Anna Isabel Villafuerte from sizzling in ice skating. Showing grace, agility and lightness, Villafuerte excelled during the Skate Beijing 2007 last April. No less than 300 skaters competed in the event, where this granddaughter of a well-known politician from Bicol won eight golds.

7. Japeth Aguilar

No doubt about it. The 6-foot-9 Japeth Aguilar is better, taller and heavier than his father Peter, who had a not-so colorful career in the pros. Aguilar, who played for the Ateneo Blue Eagles in the UAAP, made cage history by becoming the first Filipino to suit up for a Division I. He currently plays for Western Kentucky Hillstoppers. Aguilar debuted against Kennesaw State last November 9 and finished with 4 points, 3 rebounds, 2 steals and 4 turnovers in 17 minutes of action. "I want him to play in the NBA," declared Peter in an interview in Illinois a day before Japeth's debut.

8. Terry Capistrano

Unknown to many, La Salle's return as UAAP basketball king would not be possible without the wisdom of sportsman-businessman Terry Capistrano. Despite opinions to the contrary, the

(continued on page 12)

SUDOKU

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

					1		8	
6	5	4			9		1	
					2		6	
2	6	9						
						6	5	9
	8		4					
	4		8			5	2	3
	3		7					

© 2007 Conceptis Puzzles. Distributed by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Answer to previous puzzle

3	8	4	6	5	2	9	1	7
1	5	9	3	7	8	6	2	4
6	2	7	4	1	9	8	5	3
5	9	3	8	2	6	4	7	1
8	7	6	5	4	1	3	9	2
4	1	2	9	3	7	5	8	6
7	6	5	1	9	3	2	4	8
2	4	8	7	6	5	1	3	9
9	3	1	2	8	4	7	6	5

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

PDI, Dec. 29

Difficulty Level ★★★★★ Answers in PDI, Dec. 31 issue 13/10

sundayINQUIRERmagazine

sim@inquirer.com.ph

Publisher: Leica R. Carpo

Executive Editor: Pennie Azarcon-de la Cruz

Associate Editor: Ruel S. De Vera

Staff Writer: Eric S. Caruncho

Graphic Consultant: Paolo Viloria

Editorial Assistant: Sharon M. Felipe

Advertising and Sales Officer: Mylene de Jesus

Product Manager: Chito San Mateo

Cover: Some of SIM's 2007 covers

Volume 21 No. 43 December 30, 2007

ISSN 0116-232X

12 Athletes Who Scored Big (from page 11)



Wenceslao: Scored one for women

soft-spoken Capistrano decided to return as team manager when the Archers returned from a one-year suspension due to eligibility problems. Tirelessly working behind the scenes, Capistrano injected the Archers with the demeanor of a champion and a never-say-die attitude needed to excel in the UAAP. For his effort, Capistrano was honored by the UAAP Press Corps as manager of the year.

9. Olsen Racela

By trying something different, veteran PBA player Olsen Racela made a lot of difference. A father of three, this former King Eagle thrilled his audience as a reader in the Philippine Daily Inquirer's Read-Along program last August.

"Aside from knowing the importance of reading, I support advocacies like this, especially those that gives importance to kids," said Racela who recalled that he immediately volunteered upon learning of the program.

10. Noelle Wenceslao

Despite suffering from acute mountain sickness, Noelle Wenceslao scored one for women as she reached the summit of Mt. Everest last May. Not to be outdone, Wenceslao's fellow climbers—Karina Dayondon and Janet Belarmino—also made it to the summit which they traversed from the North Side. Wenceslao is a physical education major at the University of the Philippines, Belarmino is a champion triathlete



So: Seventh youngest grandmaster in the world

while Dayondon studies at the Xavier University in Cagayan de Oro City.

11. Joseph del Gallego

He lost his left leg to bone cancer 11 years ago, but Joseph del Gallego, a call center manager for PeopleSupport in Cebu City, isn't bothered a bit. He played goalie for PeopleSupport Team A and is a regular in various soccer games in collegiate and commercial leagues. Before losing his leg, Del Gallego, 28, saw action in the Palarong Pambansa. "God gave me an open mind," said Del Gallego after losing a leg.

12. Wesley So

Only 14, yet already a Grandmaster. Wesley So became the seventh youngest GM in the world with a wonderful finish in the 3rd Prospero Pichay International Open chess championships at the Duty Free Fiesta Mall in Parañaque. Considered a child prodigy, So is expected to carry the brunt of the Philippine campaign in the Olympiad and other international campaigns. •



12 Best Vegetarian Treats

How to eat your way to a healthier, more compassionate world

SURE, you'd like to fuel the Compassion Revolution by eating healthier food and saving more animals from slaughter. But dang, you want to enjoy your meals too and there just doesn't seem to be enough places that serve gourmet tofu treats and tasty vegetarian dishes. Which was why the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals Asia-Pacific (PETA) combed the country to find the best of everything vegan and vegetarian for those of us who want to turn over a new leaf.

1. Best vegan sandwich: Chimara's Sweet Chili "Beef" Pita Romana. Even hard-core meat-eaters lick their chops at the thought of this meal-in-a-pita juicy mock-beef served with fresh tomatoes, corn, and lots of fresh, spicy salsa.

2. Best dairy-free ice cream: Soy Gelato at Pazzo in the Rockwell Mall. Available in vanilla, chocolate, and chocolate-chunk flavors, all Soy Gelato varieties are lactose-free, ideal for Pinoys who are lactose-intolerant. For the best soymilk, try Silk. Available in most supermarkets including Rustan's, SM, Shopwise and Landmark. And if it's soy latte you want, Starbucks' version rules.

3. Best vegetarian grocer: Healthy Options. With everything from veggie burgers and dairy-free ice cream to cosmetics and household products that aren't tested on animals, this is the place to go for cruelty-free shopping.

4. Best vegetarian appetizer: Queens Restaurant's Mock-Chicken Satay. Feel like royalty after biting into Queens' succulent vegetarian meat chunks smothered in peanut sauce. For best vegan dessert, try the chocolate cake at Greens Cafe. The most chocolatey-

chocolate cake in the land, bar none!

5. Best vegetarian restaurant: The Farm in Batangas. Offers an extensive "raw" lunch and dinner buffet. The fresh fruits, vegetables, grains, and seeds are cooked at low temperatures to preserve all their natural flavors and nutrition. Specialties include creamy yet dairy-free pastas, rich soups, tangy stir-fries, and fresh salads. The lentil and walnut pâté—served with toasted-coconut crackers—is not to be missed.

6. Best vegetarian-friendly restaurant: Queens. Although it also serves nonvegetarian food, Queens offers a 16-page menu with an astounding 80 vegetarian dishes inspired by the cuisines of India, Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, and other Asian nations. PETA's favorites include the vegetarian-chicken satay, the gado-gado traditional Indonesian salad, tofu with fresh chili, and the perfectly spiced curry-vegetable pizza.

7. Best affordable vegetarian food: Bodhi

8. Best vegetarian Indian food: Prince of Jaipur. One taste of the lentil dahl says it all!

9. Best vegetarian Thai food: People's Palace. PETA recommends the tofu red curry, the Som Tam, and the pomelo salad.

10. Best vegetarian Japanese food: Red Kimono. Just ask for the meat- and egg-free menu and you're all set. The best of the best includes the spinach layered with tofu and miso paste; homemade vegan mayonnaise swirled over the kyuri kani salad; vegetanan maki (which tastes like sushi); and for dessert, banana katsu

with chocolate sauce (hold the ice cream).

11. Best vegetarian Chinese food: Happy Veggie. Located in the heart of Manila's Chinatown, this place serves authentic and delicious Chinese cuisine with enough mock-meat dishes to satisfy any meat-eater.

12. Best book: "Skinny Bitch." Written by a former model turned agent for a top US modeling agency, the book has an in-your-face approach to promoting healthy vegan diets as the best way to stay slim and fit while helping stop cruelty to animals. •

Chimara: Level 4, Greenbelt 3, Ayala Center, Makati City

Pazzo: Powerplant Mall, Rockwell Drive, cor. Estrella St., Makati

Healthy Options: HealthyOptions.com.ph

Queens Restaurant: 146 Jupiter St., Makati

Greens Cafe: 20-A Sct. Tuazon cor. Sct. Castor, South Triangle, Quezon City

The Farm (Batangas): TheFarm.com.ph

Bodhi: SM Cubao, SM North EDSA, SM Megamall, SM South Mall, SM City Manila, SM Makati

Prince of Jaipur: Unit E, The Fort Strip, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig

People's Palace: PeoplesPalaceThai.com

Red Kimono: www.redkimono.com.ph

Happy Veggie: 958 G. Masangkay St., Sta. Cruz, Manila

Skinny Bitch (book): SkinnyBitch.net, also available at Powerbooks, National Bookstore, and Fully Booked

For more information please visit PETAAsiaPacific.com.



To your health (from left, clockwise): The Farm breakfast buffet spread, Queens' Sizzling Tao Pao Roll and Kyuri Kani Salad at Red Kimono

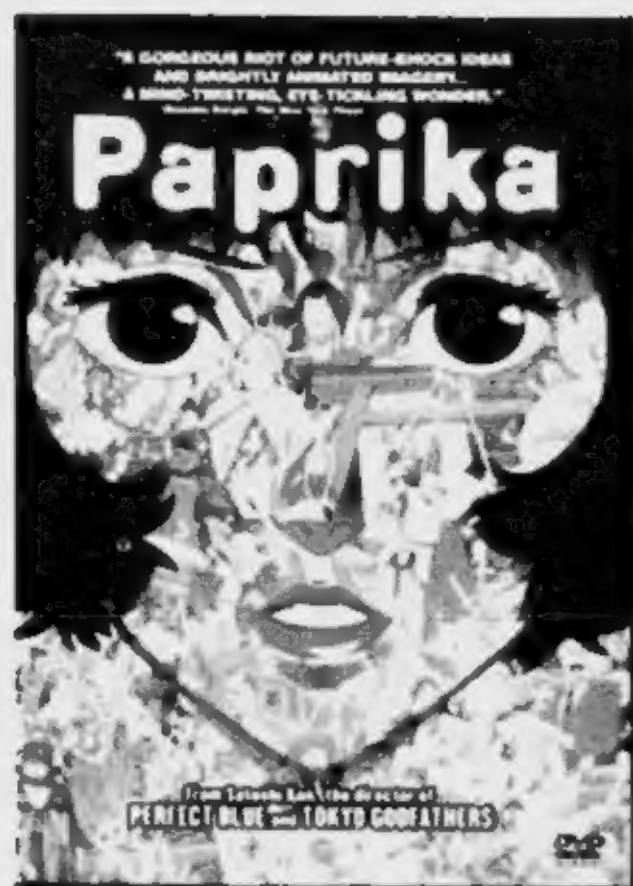
12 DVDs Off the Beaten Track

Anybody can watch commercial releases in downtown theaters. But not these DVDs

1. **"Pink Flamingos."** The hit John Travolta movie "Hairspray" was based on a Broadway musical that, in turn, was based on a 1988 movie by John Waters. Waters first gained notoriety for this cult 1972 film featuring a star—and stomach-turning—performance by 300-pound transvestite Divine as Babs Johnson, the "filthiest person alive." Hilarious, but a word of caution: definitely not for kids.



2. **"Paprika."** "This is your brain on anime," goes the blurb, and what a wild ride it is. Anime wunderkind Satoshi Kon ("Perfect Blue," "Millennium Actress") has always placed story before visuals, but they're perfectly balanced in this tale of a dream machine that enables the titular heroine to enter other people's dreams. Psychedelic.



3. **"Henry: Portrait of a Serial Killer (20th Anniversary Special Edition)."** Based on the story of real-life serial killer Henry Lee Lucas, this is considered one of the "20 scariest movies of all time." Make that the scariest, because in spite of its low budget production, it feels all too real, thanks to Michael Rooker's convincing performance as the titular psycho.

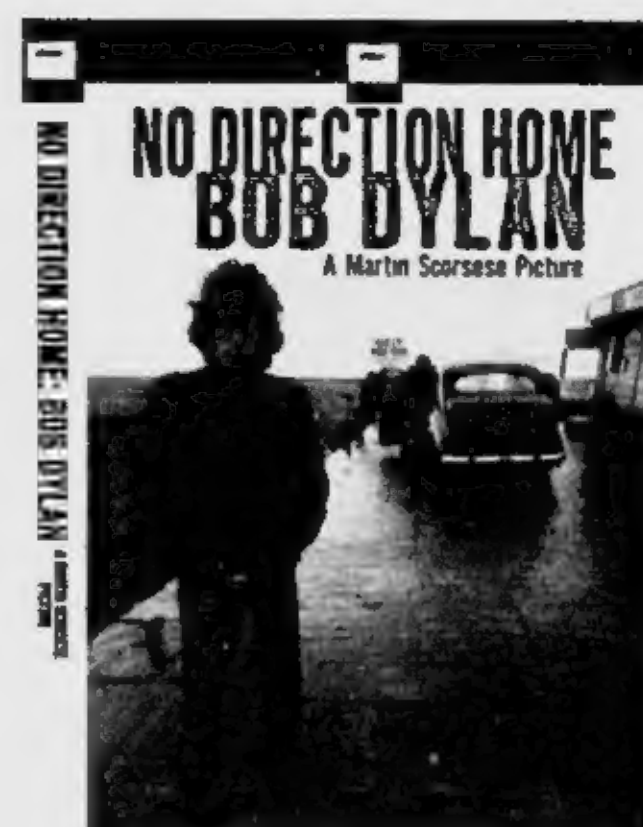
4. **"Le Samourai."** Alain Delon's ice-cool performance as the trenchcoat-wearing killer-for-hire in this Jean Pierre Melville film provided the template for countless "lonely hitman" movies, including notably John Woo's "The Killer."



5. **"School of the Holy Beast."** Catholic education had no stranger by-product than the durable 1970s film genre now known as "nunsplotation," the imagined sexual exploits of the cloistered. And nunsplotation had no stranger exemplar than this 1974 film by Japanese "pinku" film director Norifumi Suzuki, who throws sadomasochism and a peculiarly Japanese aestheticism into the mix.

6. **"The Future Is Unwritten: Joe Strummer."** Julien Temple's affectionate documentary portrait of the Clash's late front man Joe Strummer is an exemplary rock bio, getting to the heart of what drove Strummer to make such passionate music.

7. **"The Heroic Trio Series."** Hong Kong doesn't make films like these anymore, enough reason to get this twofer that compiles Johnnie To's camp classic "The Heroic Trio" with its sequel "The Executioners." Featuring the late Anita Mui as "Wonder Woman," Michelle Yeo as "Invisible Girl" and Maggie Cheung as "Thief Catcher," both are unbridled action adventures from the golden age of Hong Kong cinema.



8. **"If..."** Set in the ultraconservative British school system, Lindsay Anderson's 1969 film featured the young Malcolm MacDowell as the upstart Mick Travis. It seamlessly wove fantasy with reality, ending in an anarchic shootout that ushered in the revolt of the 1970s.

9. **"Beyond the Valley of the Dolls."** Scripted by future film critic Roger Ebert, Russ Meyer's send up of the bestselling novel "Valley of the Dolls" centers around an all-girl group who skyrocket to success and succumb to sex, drugs and rock'n'roll. A bonafide cult classic, it is best enjoyed as a campy Sixties-era send up.



10. **"No Direction Home."** Martin Scorsese's Bob Dylan documentary follows Dylan as he evolves from protest folk singer to electric prophet, culminating in the 1966 Manchester concert where he confronts a jeering audience of folk purists with the immortal admonition to his band: "Play f**king loud!"

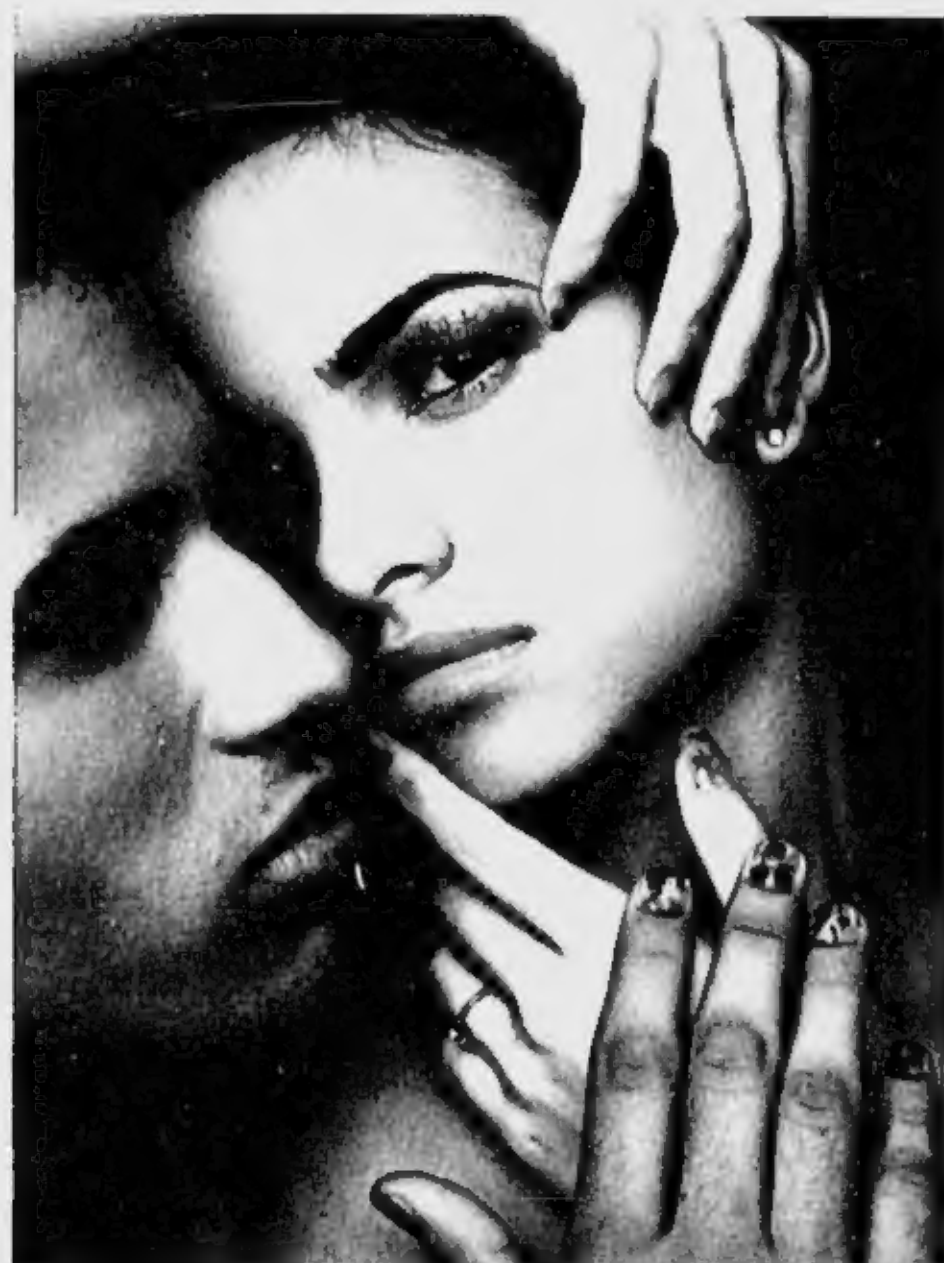
11. **"Black Lagoon Seasons 1 and 2."** "Death Note" may be the fan favorite, but my vote for best anime series in recent memory goes to "Black Lagoon." It features the adventures of the jolly crew of

mercenaries who pilot the Black Lagoon in the pirate-infested waters of Southeast Asia. There's never a dull moment in 24 episodes.

12. **"This is England."** Shane Meadows' critically-acclaimed coming-of-age film set in Thatcher-era England centers on a young protagonist who is adopted by a gang of skinheads who hew dangerously close to ultra-right politics, with tragic consequences.

Eric S. Caruncho

Fun and Fashion at Your Fingertips



IT'S party season; time to look your best from head to toe. That's why there's Bluewater Day Spa digital nail art. It gives you glamorous, fun, and one-of-a-kind fab nails in as fast as an hour!

Bluewater Day Spa's digital nail art adds pomp and oomph to your look with its wide selection of designs that brings out the fashionably fun femme in you. And it's totally fuss-free! That's because Bluewater Day Spa uses a special nail art machine that instantly prints your favorite designs on your nails. A clamp firmly holds your nails in place to make sure that the designs are properly printed. Nails are then put on a nail dryer and given a few finishing touches.

It's fun and fashion at your fingertips. Go girly with colorful floral, butterfly, bows and strawberry designs. Be a bit funky with Japanese art designs, stripes, checks and yin-yangs. If you're into glitz and glam, have your nails painted with uptown girl designs reminiscent of high-fashion French women wearing hats and flowers tucked in their ears. Why, you can even have your name, initials or pictures printed on your nails! Put some rhinestones on them and instantly, you get ultra fabulous, ultra fun nails that are ready to party. Cheers! •

For inquiries, call Bluewater Day Spa at tel nos. 817-3126, 723-5534 or 927-2258 or visit their website at www.bluewaterdayspa.com.



With Cebu Pacific, there's no such thing as expensive vacations.

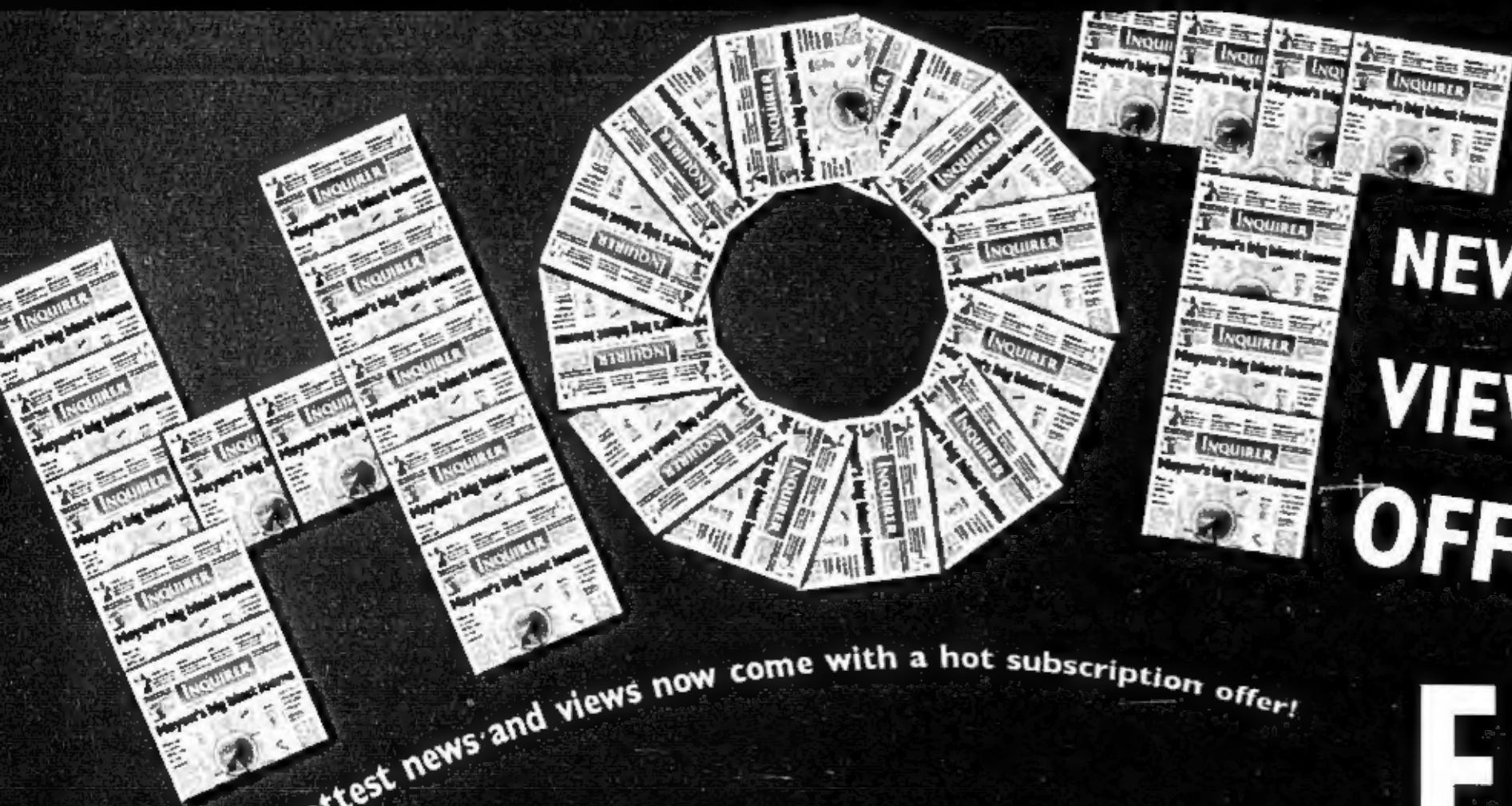
Fly now. Cebu Pacific makes it affordable for everyone to have a vacation.

Cebu Pacific is the No. 1 domestic airline.

• Most passengers flown* • Most domestic destinations • Most domestic flights
• Most domestic routes • Lowest year-round fares • Newest planes

*CAB Data July '06 - June '07

**CEBU
PACIFIC**
It's time everyone flies.



**NEWS!
VIEWS!
OFFER!**

The hottest news and views now come with a hot subscription offer!

FREE
USB-connectible
mug warmer &
stainless mug set
for every one year subscription!
Call 896-6000



Cash, Cheque, MasterCard, or Visa payments accepted. Promo open to new subscribers and to those who will renew their Inquirer subscription. For Metro Manila residents only. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3658, Series of 2007. See flyers for details.

When a Non-Chef Cooks

After a 5-minute chat with the animated Ene Lagunzad and a quick scan of her resume, you'll be left wondering: What can't this woman do?

An Interior Design grad of UP Diliman, Ene styles herself a true multitasker who juggles a day job as graphic designer for the Quezon City government with regular gigs as lead singer of 'The Ronhies'. The spirited crowd favorite regularly does the rounds of popular Malabon and Quezon City haunts playing 80s and current pop-rock hits.

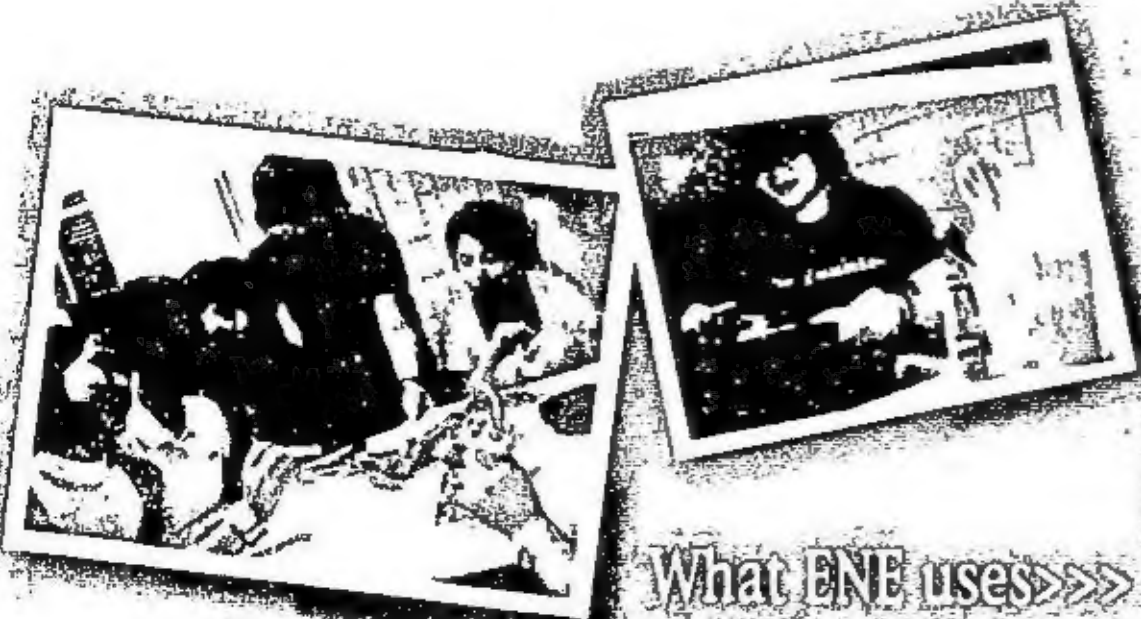
She's part of a generation of young people who values independence and continuous growth over mere money and security. This she succeeds to do with aplomb. She can easily put on the producer hat then design music videos in a snap. Styling comes easy for her and has even landed magazine cover looks to her credit.

But wait! The one-time band manager of several popular bands is also a skilled artist with two solo exhibits to her name. Now squeezing time in between gigs, she's dabbling on canvas for a tarot card-inspired exhibit next year. She is also one of the movers and shakers behind Rock Ed, a non-profit group that promotes education through music.

When not doing all of the above, she peters about in the kitchen with the same passion she channels to everything she gets into. With her busy schedule, she's partial to creating quick, easy-to-cook meals for herself, her family and friends. But that doesn't mean having to settle for the ordinary. She never over the sweet and spicy Oriental taste of Jufran's Sweet Chili Sauce, a staple in her kitchen.

"Hyphenate. A hip young multitasker with several main occupations."

Jufran's Sweet Chili Sauce added to any dish creates a totally new flavor dimension to dishes. Think of it as a unique meeting of ingredients to create a delightful new whole—a smashing blend of chili, onion, garlic, bell pepper, vinegar and other Asian spices in a smooth, velvety paste. It will add just the right Oriental hit to your kitchen creations. For an added kick to fish ball, squid ball and other fish dishes, use as dip or dressing for salads; or consider adding a sumptuous drizzling of it on shrimp dishes, spring rolls or chicken wings.



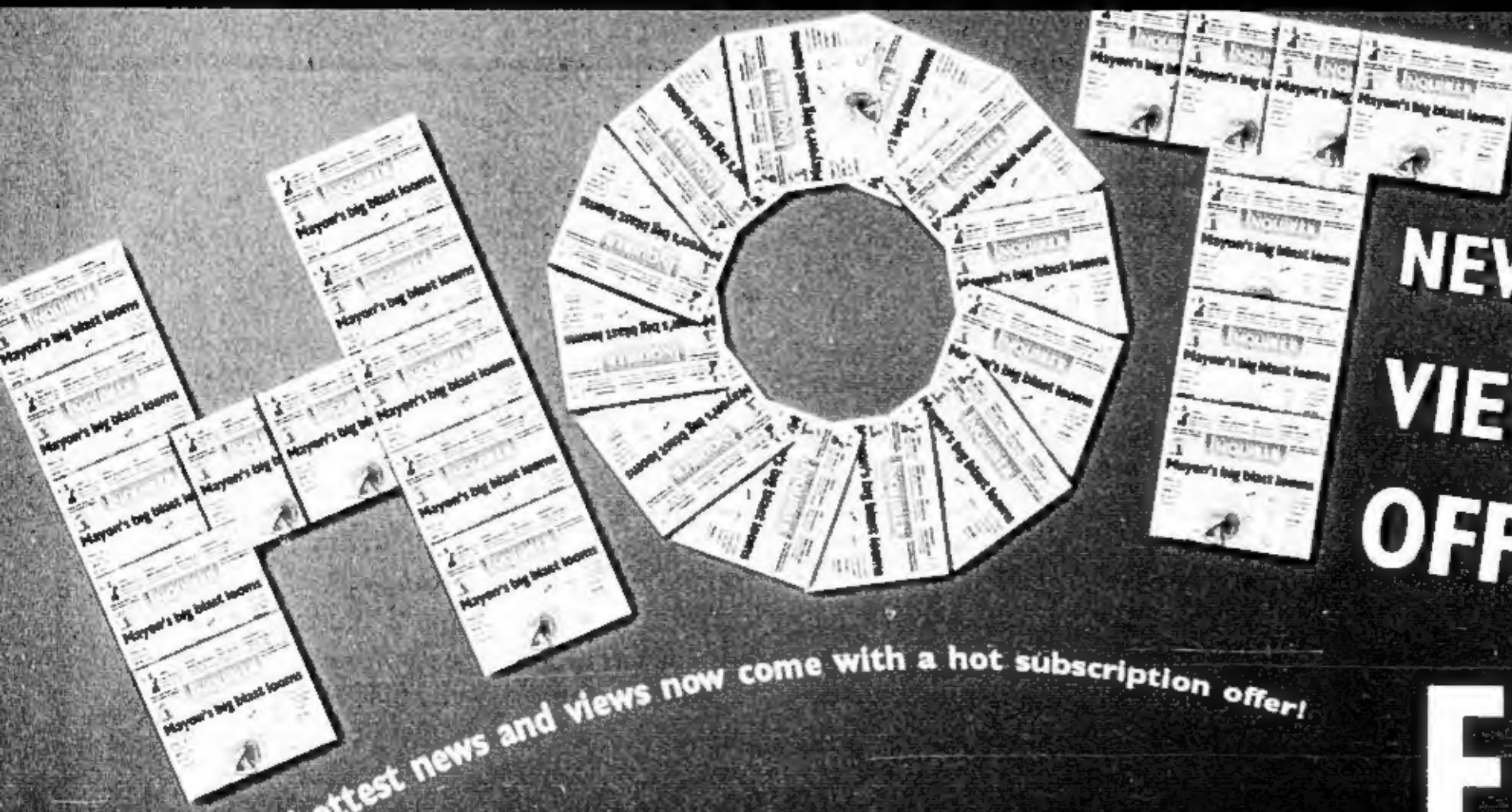
What ENE uses>>>



<<ENE
LAGUNZAD:

**The
Happening
Hyphenate**

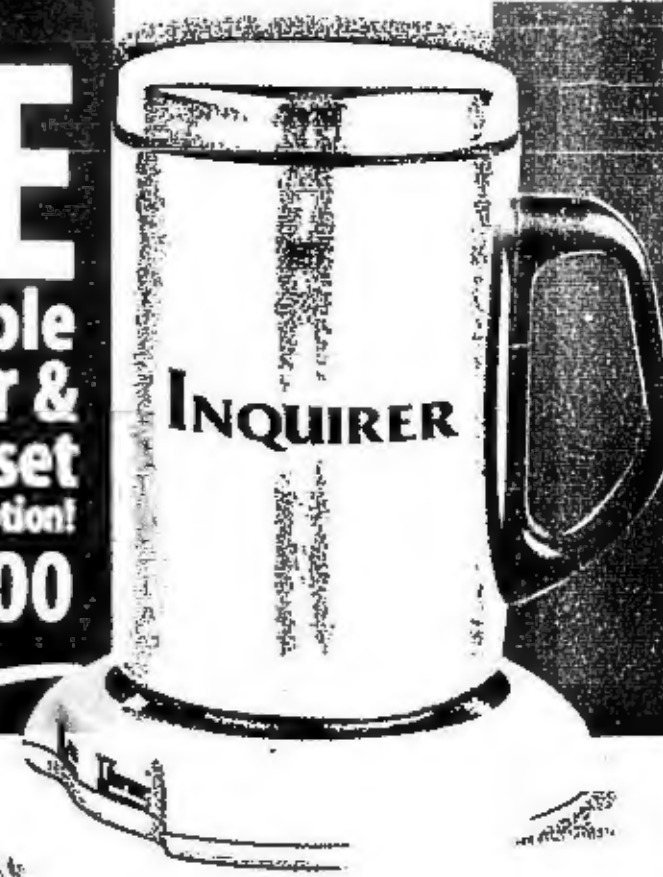
Jufran



**NEWS!
VIEWS!
OFFER!**

The hottest news and views now come with a hot subscription offer!

FREE
USB-connectible
mug warmer &
stainless mug set
for every one year subscription!
Call 896-6000



When a Non-Chief Cooks

As a non-chef, you may not have the same level of culinary expertise as a professional chef, but that doesn't mean you can't create delicious dishes. In fact, many of the most innovative and popular dishes are created by home cooks who are passionate about their craft. So, if you're looking for a new challenge, why not try your hand at cooking? It's a great way to express your creativity and share your love of food with others.

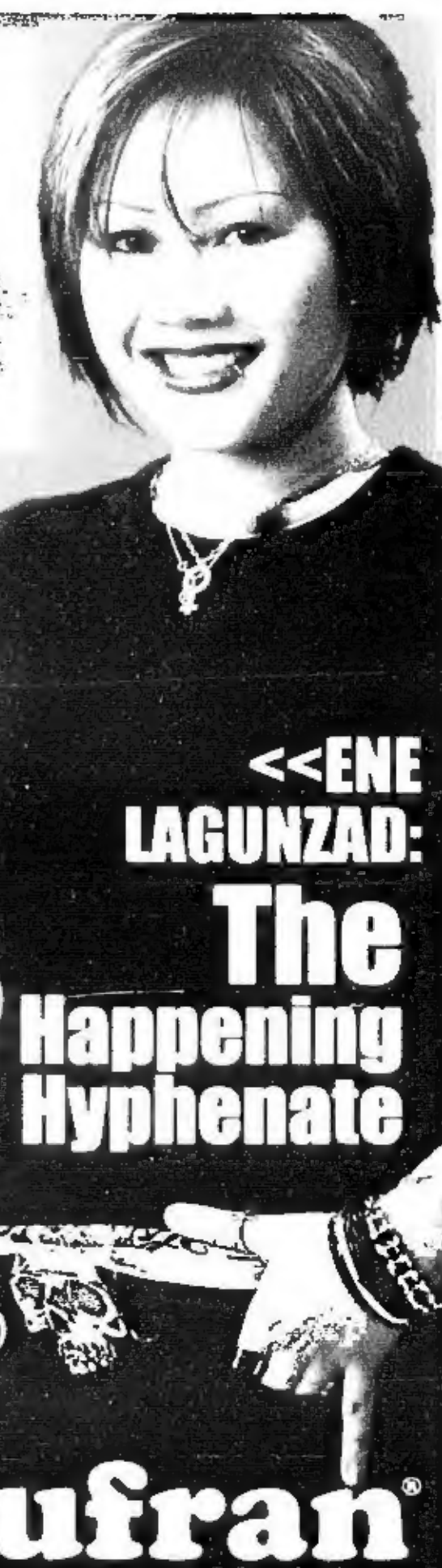
One of the most common misconceptions about non-chef cooks is that they lack the necessary skills to create professional-quality dishes. However, with a little practice and a willingness to learn, anyone can become a skilled home cook. There are many resources available to help you get started, including cookbooks, online tutorials, and even professional cooking classes.

Another common misconception is that non-chef cooks are limited to simple, basic recipes. In reality, there is no limit to the complexity of the dishes you can create. With a little creativity and a willingness to experiment, you can create dishes that are as sophisticated as anything you'd find in a restaurant.

So, if you're looking for a new challenge, why not try your hand at cooking? It's a great way to express your creativity and share your love of food with others. And, with a little practice and a willingness to learn, anyone can become a skilled home cook.

"Hyphenate. A hip young multitasker with several main occupations."

Jufran® Sweet Chili Sauce added to any dish creates a totally new flavor dimension to dishes. Think of it as a unique meeting of ingredients to create a delightful new whole—a smashing blend of chili, onion, garlic, bell pepper, vinegar and other Asian spices in a smooth, velvety paste. It will add just the right Oriental hit to your kitchen creations. For an added kick to fish ball, squid ball and other fish dishes, use as dip or dressing for salads; or consider adding a sumptuous drizzling of it on shrimp dishes, spring rolls or chicken wings.



<<ENE
LAGUNZAD:
**The
Happening
Hyphenate**

Jufran®